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GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN

SOON...
SO THE OLD MAN IS DYING AT LAST, IS HE? HE MUST BE NINETY! WORTH MILLIONS, AND WITH ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS I'VE EVER SEEN!
HOW IS HE NOW, TABU?
YOU MUST HURRY, DOCTOR! HIS ORDERS ARE THAT YOU GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
INSTANTLY THE DOCTOR SENSES SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THE DEATH ROOM...
HURRY, FISHER! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I TELL YOU... AND YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY ME!
OF COURSE, SIR! ANYTHING I CAN DO!
THEY GET ODD IDEAS WHEN THEY'RE DYING!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! NOW... WHEN I DIE, YOU MUST TAKE OUT MY BRAIN AT ONCE! PUT IT IN A CASKET THAT TABU WILL GIVE YOU! MY BRAIN IS NOT REALLY MINE AT ALL! I BORROWED IT, AND YOU MUST RETURN IT! DO YOU PROMISE TO DO THIS? DO YOU?
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S GONE, TABU! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE HIS EYES! THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
HE WAS A GREAT AND GOOD MAN! I, TABU, WILL MAKE SURE HIS LAST WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!
THE DOCTOR, STAGGERED BY THE WEIRD REQUEST, MAKES A PROMISE...
TABU WILL EXPLAIN ALL AFTER I'M DEAD! BUT YOU MUST NOT BREAK YOUR WORD!
I-I PROMISE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR, BUT I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR BRAIN!

A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IS RIGGED...
NO TIME TO WASTE! WHILE I'M SAWING THE SKULL OPEN, YOU CAN BE EXPLAINING!
THE STORY BEGINS IN EGYPT, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THERE WAS A HIGH PRIEST CALLED VISHNU!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! DIDN'T THEY MAKE A GOD OF HIM AFTER HE DIED?
CORRECT, BUT THEY DID MORE... BEFORE HE WAS ENTOMBED, THEY REMOVED HIS BRAIN AND PRESERVED IT! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON THE BRAIN DID NOT DIE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, TABU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME...
VISHNU WAS VERY ANGRY, BUT HE PERMITTED MR. MAXMILIAN TO KEEP HIS BRAIN PROVIDED IT WAS USED FOR GOOD PURPOSES... AND ONLY IF IT WAS RETURNED AFTER MR. MAXMILIANS DEATH!
BUT I AM, SIR! THIS IS THE BRAIN OF VISHNU! MR. MAXMILIAN DISCOVERED IT IN A TOMB SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO! IT WAS STILL ALIVE! HE DARED TO TAKE IT AND HAVE IT PUT INTO HIS OWN SKULL! LATER HE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH VISHNU CAME TO HIM!
INCREDIBLE!
OF ALL THE CRAZY YARNS... BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IT! AND IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT A CHANCE FOR ME! A BRAIN... ALIVE AFTER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS... I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO MY LAB AND LOOK AT IT!
LATER...
...NOW IT MUST GO BACK TO ITS TOMB IN EGYPT! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SIR, BECAUSE ONLY A DOCTOR COULD REMOVE THE BRAIN WITHOUT HARMING IT!

FASCINATED BY THE BRAIN, THE DOCTOR WORKS UNTIL DAWN...
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE BRAIN IS EXTREMELY OLD! THE TISSUE SHOWS THAT CLEARLY! THE DEGREE OF CONVOLUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND COMPLICATED!
NO WONDER MAXMILIAN WAS SO SUCCESSFUL! WHO WOULDN'T BE WITH A BRAIN LIKE THIS! MARVELOUS, TOO, HOW IT CONTINUES TO LIVE! PITY TO PUT IT IN SOME DECAYING TOMB!
LATER...
YOU CANNOT RETURN THE BRAIN?
NO! I'M MUCH TOO BUSY! IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THE BRAIN, HERE IT IS!
NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR VISITS HIS OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL...
HELLO, DEAN BAXTER! I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR? I NEED A BRAIN... JUST ANY OLD BRAIN WILL DO!
I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT FOR OUR MOST BRILLIANT GRADUATE!
BUT THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR CHUCKLES AT HIS OWN CLEVERNESS!
VERY NEAT! TABU NEVER GUESSED THAT I SWITCHED THE BRAINS! NOW I CAN STUDY VISHNU'S BRAIN TO MY HEARTS CONTENT!
YOU HAVE BROKEN FAITH, BUT TABU WILL NOT! I WILL RETURN THE BRAIN IN YOUR STEAD! GOOD BYE, DR FISHER!
GOODBYE, TABU! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRIP!

DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR HAS A MORE DARING PLAN...
YOU WERE ONCE A BRILLIANT BRAIN SURGEON, TORKS! IS ANY OF THAT SKILL LEFT?
I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS, DR. FISHER! ALL I NEED IS A BREAK!
LATER...
WE'RE GOING TO A SPECIAL LAB I'VE FITTED UP, TORKS! I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY!
I WANT YOU TO REMOVE MY BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH THIS ONE! DO IT AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! I'LL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY!
B-BUT YOU MIGHT DIE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT TORKS, OUTLAWED FROM MEDICINE, AT LAST AGREES TO PERFORM THE OPERATION...
SO DR. FISHER FALLS AWAY INTO DARKNESS, STAKING HIS LIFE ON THE OLD MAN'S RUSTY SKILLS...
LET'S SEE... FIRST THE TRANSVERSE SLASH, THEN THE...
REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU! AND ABOVE ALL, NO ONE MUST KNOW OF THIS!
TWO WEEKS LATER...
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TAKE THEM OFF, FISHER! I REALLY DID A REMARKABLE JOB! BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT BRAIN!
LATER, TORKS, LATER!
FIRST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE DRINK TO CELEBRATE! BUT I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE OF OUR EXPERIMENT WHILE I WAS CONVALESCING!
NOT A WORD!

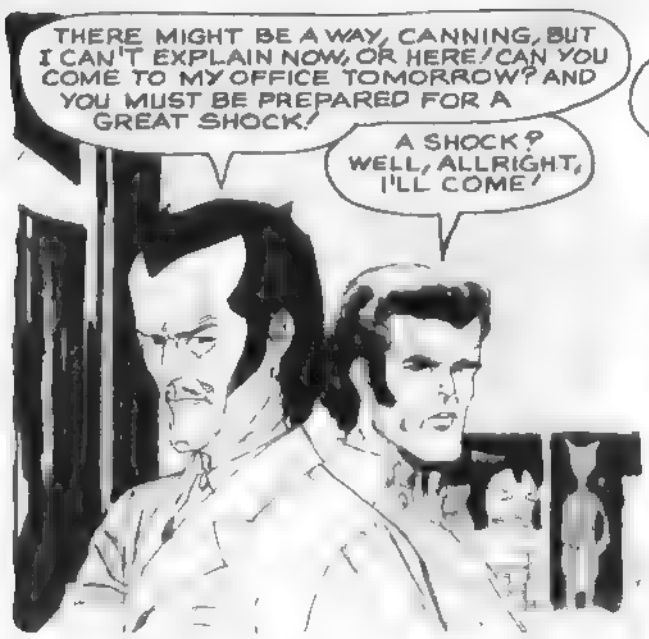
MEANTIME TABU MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT...
AT LAST I CAN RETURN THE BRAIN TO VISHNU!
THEN BOTH OF US CAN REST IN PEACE!
THIS MUST BE THE TOMB OF VISHNU! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS I MUST PLACE THE CASKET WITH THE BRAIN ON THE STONE COFFIN, THEN SAY A PRAYER...
...OF THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE BRAIN!
I, TABU, SERVANT OF MAXMILIAN, PAY HOMAGE TO VISHNU, THE MOST VENERABLE AND WISE!
SUDDENLY...
L-LIGHTNING! THE TOMB IS S-SHATTERED! VISHNU MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME!

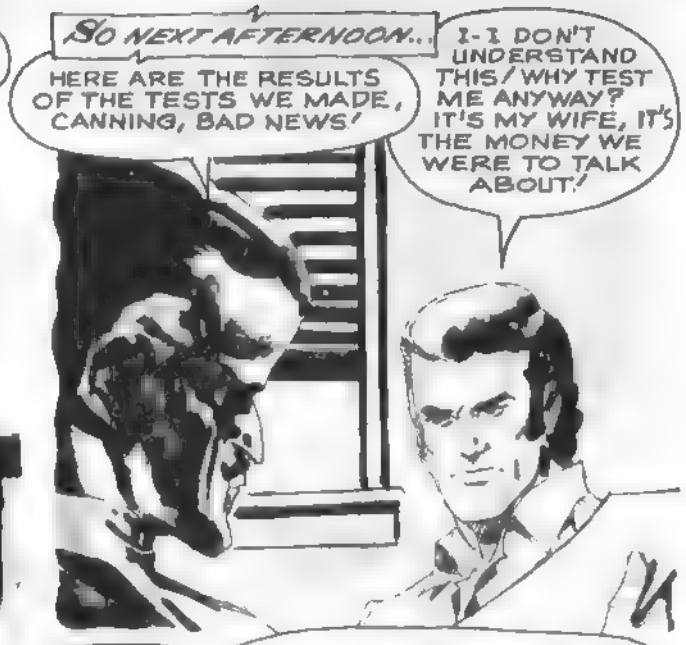
A SPECTRAL FIGURE LOOMS FROM THE COFFIN...
FOOL! CURSED MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME THE BRAIN OF ANOTHER?
LIAR! IT IS THE BRAIN OF A MADMAN, A CRIMINAL, TAKEN FROM A NAMELESS BODY! DIE NOW!
ANOTHER? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS YOUR BRAIN, VISHNU! I RETURN IT AS MY MASTER BADE ME!
THAT NIGHT HE MAKES A BRILLIANT SPEECH BEFORE A LEARNED SOCIETY...
NOW IN CLOSING LET ME QUOTE FROM THE GREEK EPICTETUS...
MARVELOUS! ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK HE WAS THERE!
LATER...
I WAS EXCEPTIONAL TONIGHT!...AND WHY NOT? IN MY SKULL IS A BRAIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!
MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR PROSPERS...
EVERYTHING IS GOING MY WAY! FAME AND FORTUNE IS MINE!

AS HE REACHES HOME...
GOOD EVENING, SIR! THERE IS A GENTLEMAN WAITING IN THE STUDY! A PATIENT, I BELIEVE!
YOU KNOW I NO LONGER SEE PATIENTS!
I'VE GIVEN UP ORDINARY PRACTICE, HOWEVER...
BUT THIS PATIENT IS DIFFERENT
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME? A HEAD WOUND OF SOME KIND?
YES, DOCTOR, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!
AS THE LAST BANDAGE FALLS AWAY.
NOW, DOCTOR, I WANT MY BRAIN!
EEEEEEEE

YOU FOOLED TABU, DOCTOR, BUT NOT VISHNU! I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM EGYPT TO GET MY BRAIN!
N-NO! Y-YOU CAN'T! I HAVE THE BRAIN IN MY SKULL!
SOMETHING GLITTERS CRUELLY IN THE BONY HANDS OF VISHNU..
NO- NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME!
AHEEEEEEE-
YOU ARE WRONG AGAIN, DOCTOR! VISHNU CAN DO IT! NOW GIVE IT TO ME!
AT LAST! AND IT SEEMS TO BE UNHARMED WHICH (CHUCKLE) IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, DOCTOR!
LATER A STARK AND TERRIBLE FIGURE IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY..
NOW VISHNU CAN RETURN TO HIS TOMB IN PEACE!
BEHIND, IN A SILENT HOUSE, IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF DR. MORRIS FISHER! LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM, HE LEARNED KNOWLEDGE MUST BE EARNED! IT CANNOT BE STOLEN.
THE END

SATAN'S REVENGE


THERE MIGHT BE A WAY, CANNING, BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, OR HERE! CAN YOU COME TO MY OFFICE TOMORROW? AND YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR A GREAT SHOCK!
A SHOCK? WELL, ALLRIGHT, I'LL COME!


SO NEXT AFTERNOON...
HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS WE MADE, CANNING, BAD NEWS!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! WHY TEST ME ANYWAY? IT'S MY WIFE, IT'S THE MONEY WE WERE TO TALK ABOUT!

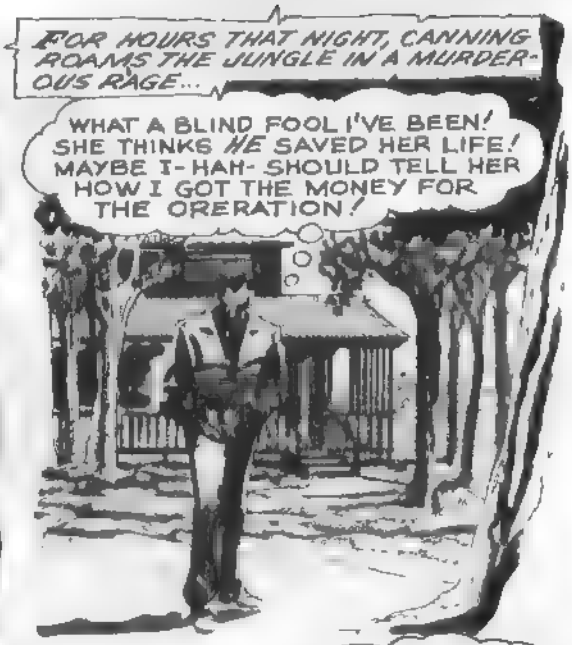
BUT YOU ARE ALSO ILL, CANNING! I NOTICED THE SYMPTOMS SOME TIME AGO! YOU HAVE A RARE TROPICAL DISEASE!
N-NO! YOU'RE LYING!
NO, IT'S THE TRUTH! YOUR WIFE MIGHT BE CURED, BUT YOU ARE A DOOMED MAN! JUST A MATTER OF MONTHS!
ALL RIGHT, SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE! WHAT HAS IT TO DO WITH THE MONEY FOR MY WIFES OPERATION?
EVERYTHING! WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR TYPE OF THE DISEASE! IF I HAD A BODY - YOUR BODY TO WORK WITH, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS IN THE FUTURE! WILL YOU SELL ME YOUR BODY?

DESPERATE, CANNING AGREES...
YOU UNDERSTAND, NOW, I MUST HAVE YOUR BODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! I MUST STUDY THE TISSUE BEFORE IT COMPLETELY DETERIORATES!
FIRST CURE MY WIFE! THEN I-I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET MY BODY!

AND A CHECK CHANGES HANDS..
AS WE AGREED, TEN-THOUSAND DOLLARS!
THANKS! I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS WORTH SO MUCH! - DEAD! AND DON'T WORRY, I'LL KEEP MY BARGAIN!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER..
I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO PERFORM THE OPERATION YOURSELF! IF ONLY ALICE GETS WELL!
IN LONDON SHE HAS A CHANCE! I'LL CABLE YOU! AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
TIME PASSES! CANNING WORKS HARD, BUT THE DOCTOR'S PARTING WORDS HAUNT HIM...
TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! HAH! THE DOCTOR DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO MY PRECIOUS BODY! I'LL KEEP MY END OF THE BARGAIN!
FINALLY.
A MESSAGE FROM LONDON, URGI, THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!
THAT IS GOOD, SIR! I AM MUCH HAPPY TO HEAR!
LATER...
ALICE! YOU LOOK MARVELOUS! THE PICTURE OF HEALTH! THANK YOU, DOCTOR!
HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY DOCTOR BISHOP, DARLING?
HOW? THE DOCTOR KNOWS...
SHE'S ALL RIGHT NOW, CANNING, BUT DON'T FORGET... I WANT YOUR BODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
S-SURE! JUST G-GIVE ME A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO CLEAR UP MY AFFAIRS! I- I'LL LET YOU KNOW!
BUT THE NIGHT BEFORE CANNING IS TO COMMIT SUICIDE...
THAT'S ODD! LIGHT'S ON IN MY STUDY! ALICE NEVER USES IT - AND SHE ISN'T EXPECTING ME UNTIL MUCH LATER!
AND..
ALICE AND THE DOCTOR! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

OF COURSE I LOVE YOU, DARLING! BUT WE MUST TELL REED! EXPLAIN THAT WE FELL IN LOVE IN ENGLAND AND...
NO, ALICE! DON'T TELL HIM YET! MAYBE- MAYBE THERE WON'T BE ANY NEED TO TELL HIM!


FOR HOURS THAT NIGHT, CANNING ROAMS THE JUNGLE IN A MURDEROUS RAGE...
WHAT A BLIND FOOL I'VE BEEN! SHE THINKS HE SAVED HER LIFE! MAYBE I-HAH- SHOULD TELL HER HOW I GOT THE MONEY FOR THE OPERATION!

HE'S SMART... HE ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES! WHY TELL ME WHEN HE KNOWS I'LL BE DEAD SOON! IT'S ALMOST FUNNY! THIS WAY HE GETS BOTH MY WIFE AND MY BODY!

CANNING, PLAYING IT SMART, SAYS NOTHING TO THE TWO ILLICIT LOVERS...
NO, DOCTOR, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN! A BODY WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU SOON!
FINE! I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT WELCHING!

NO, DOCTOR! I'M NOT GOING TO CHEAT YOU! YOU'LL- CHUCKLE- GET A BODY!

ONLY IT WON'T BE THE BODY YOU'RE EXPECTING! YOU WANT MY WIFE... AND YOU'LL GET HER!

AN HOUR LATER HE HEARS THE SCREAMS HE'S BEEN EXPECTING...
EEEEEEEEEEEE
AH-AT LAST! HA HA! THE BITE OF THAT PARTICULAR SNAKE KILLS IN A FEW MINUTES!

ALICE! GREAT SCOTT! WHAT-

AHHHHH! IT BIT ME! HELP!

BRUSH VIPER, MASTER! VERY MUCH BAD! I KILL!

AS CANNING COMFORTS HIS DYING WIFE...

ALICE? CAN YOU HEAR ME? BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I PUT THE SNAKE THERE!

SO- YOU KNEW ABOUT US!

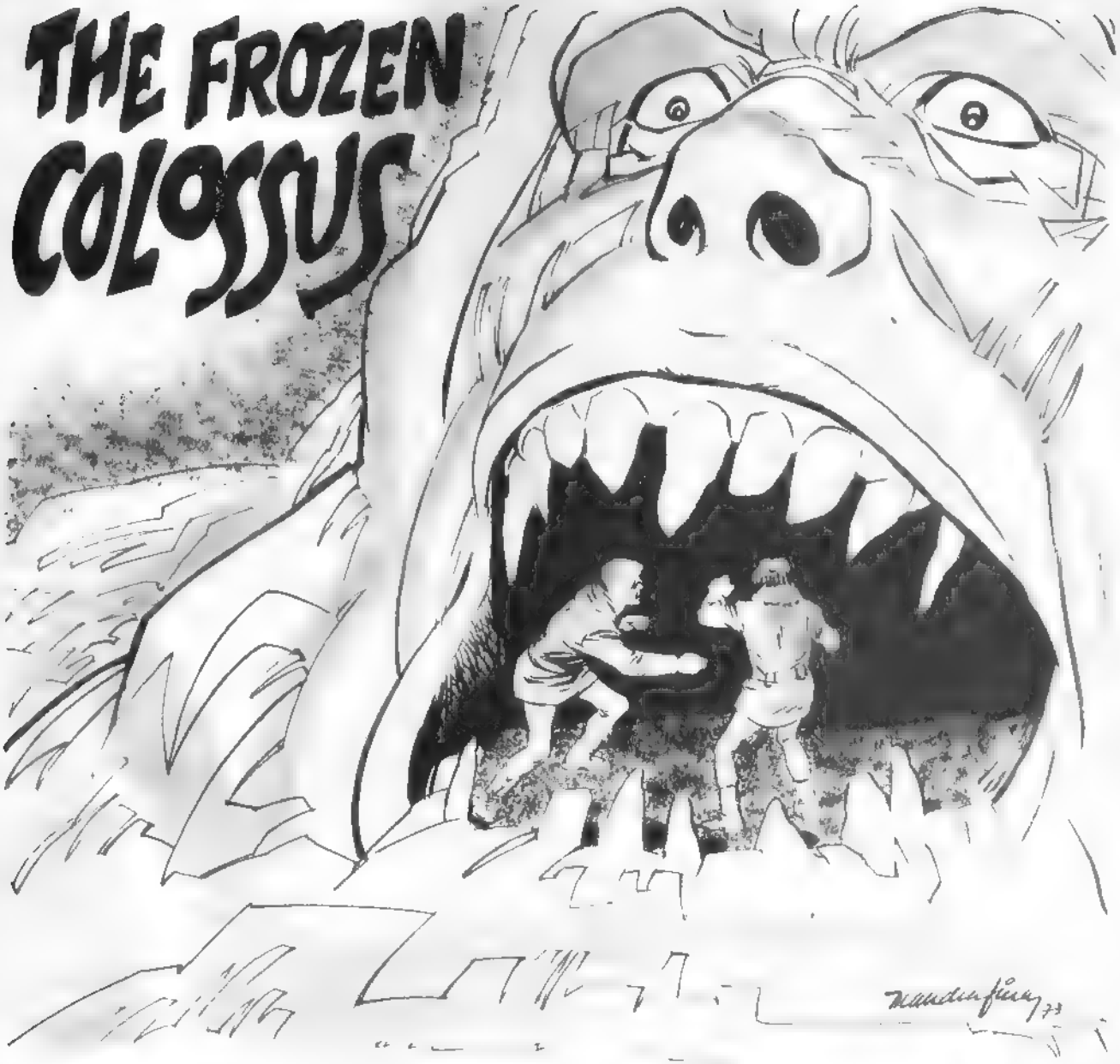
YES! I KNEW- I-OWWW-

YOU! I- HATE- OHHHHHH-

SO THE DOCTOR GOT HIS BODY AFTER ALL! AND A BONUS OR TWO!

The End

THE FROZEN COLOSSUS



THE TWO NOW EAGERLY TORE OPEN THE CONTAINER LID! THIS WAS THE MOMENT WHEN THEY WOULD KNOW IF THEIR EXPLORATION HAD BEEN VALID...

WELL--WHAT DOES IT SAY? I STILL THINK WE'RE ON A WILD GOOSE-CHASE!

NO, JOHN--YOU'RE WRONG! CENTER BASE HAS CHECKED OUR MAGNETIC RAY REPORTS! SUCCESS!

PAUL NORDEN LED HIS YOUNGER COLLEAGUE INTO THEIR TENT FOR A FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT, HIS FACE AGLOW WITH THE FANATIC ZEAL OF A TRUE SCIENTIST...

I TOLD YOU MY THEORY WAS CORRECT! THERE ARE DEFINITE MAGNETIC IMPULSES COMING FROM AN AREA SOME 50 MILES FROM HERE! AIR OBSERVATION SPOTTED IT AS MOUNTAIN CHAIN!

BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT A PREHISTORIC MAN IS TO BE FOUND HERE!

ON THE CONTRARY, THE RADIATION CHECK ON THE FOSSIL MAN IN ALASKA HAS--CONVINCED ME THAT IT COULD COME FROM THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!

BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT A NEW BRANCH PRE-HISTORIC MAN IS TO BE FOUND HERE! THE FACTS DON'T JIVE!!

ON THE CONTRARY, THEY DO! THE FOSSIL THAT WAS FOUND CONVINCED ME THAT IT CAME FROM THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!

BUT "GETTING THERE" WAS NOT SO EASY TO DO! NUMBING COLD, SWEEPING RAIN, AND THE FREEZING AIR SURROUNDED THEM--

HERE WE ARE-- GASP-- I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT!

GASP--GASP--LOOK AT THAT MAJESTIC CAVERN! IT'S HERE THAT WE'LL FIND OUR SPECIMEN, JOHN!

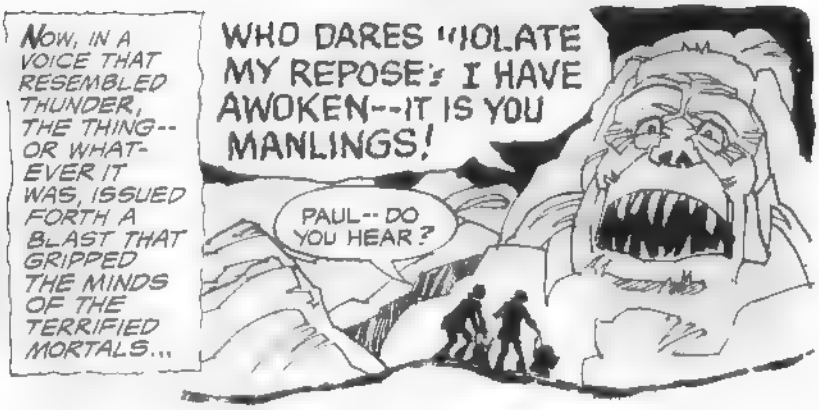
AND FINALLY THEY ARRIVED...

AN HOUR LATER...

CAREFUL, PAUL--ONE MIS-STEP AND WE'LL FALL TO OUR DEATHS BELOW!

MOMENTS AFTERWARDS, THEY HAD ENTERED A CAVERN FILLED WITH ASTONISHING ARTIFACTS OF A BYGONE AGE NEVER DISCOVERED...
GREAT SCOTT!
WE WERE RIGHT, JOHN! THIS DISCOVERY WILL ASTOUND THE WORLD!
COME HERE! OUR COUNTER IS GOING CRAZY!
WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE, PAUL? THESE ARTIFACTS ARE ON A TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AS OUR OWN!
HOURS LATER...
HERE'S ANOTHER CAVE OPENING THERE! PERHAPS WE CAN EXPLORE THIS FABULOUS PLACE FURTHER!
I'M SURE THIS IS WHERE OUR SPECIMEN CAME FROM, JOHN... YET-- I CAN'T FIND A TRACE! THERE'S NOTHING HERE-- NOTHING!
PATIENCE... MAYBE IN THERE IS OUR ANSWER! STRANGE-- BUT THIS OPENING IS UNLIKE ALL THESE OTHERS...
DO YOU HEAR THAT? THE ROOF'S GIVING OVERHEAD! PAUL-- GOOD LORD! WE'RE IN THE MOUTH OF A-- A GIANT!
GET BACK! QUICKLY!
PAUL-- LET'S NOT GO IN! I-I HAVE A WEIRD PREMONITION SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!
NONESENSE! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?
RRRRR

CRASH


NOW, IN A VOICE THAT RESEMBLED THUNDER, THE THING--OR WHATEVER IT WAS, ISSUED FORTH A BLAST THAT GRIPPED THE MINDS OF THE TERRIFIED MORTALS...
WHO DARES VIOLATE MY REPOSE? I HAVE AWOKEN--IT IS YOU MANLINGS!
PAUL--DO YOU HEAR?

YES! THE SPEECH IS ARCHAIC, BUT RECOGNIZABLE! THIS IS THE MONSTER OUR BOOKS ON MYTHOLOGY SPOKE ABOUT! THIS IS THE "GIANT THAT WALKED THE EARTH" IN THE TIME OF THE GODS!

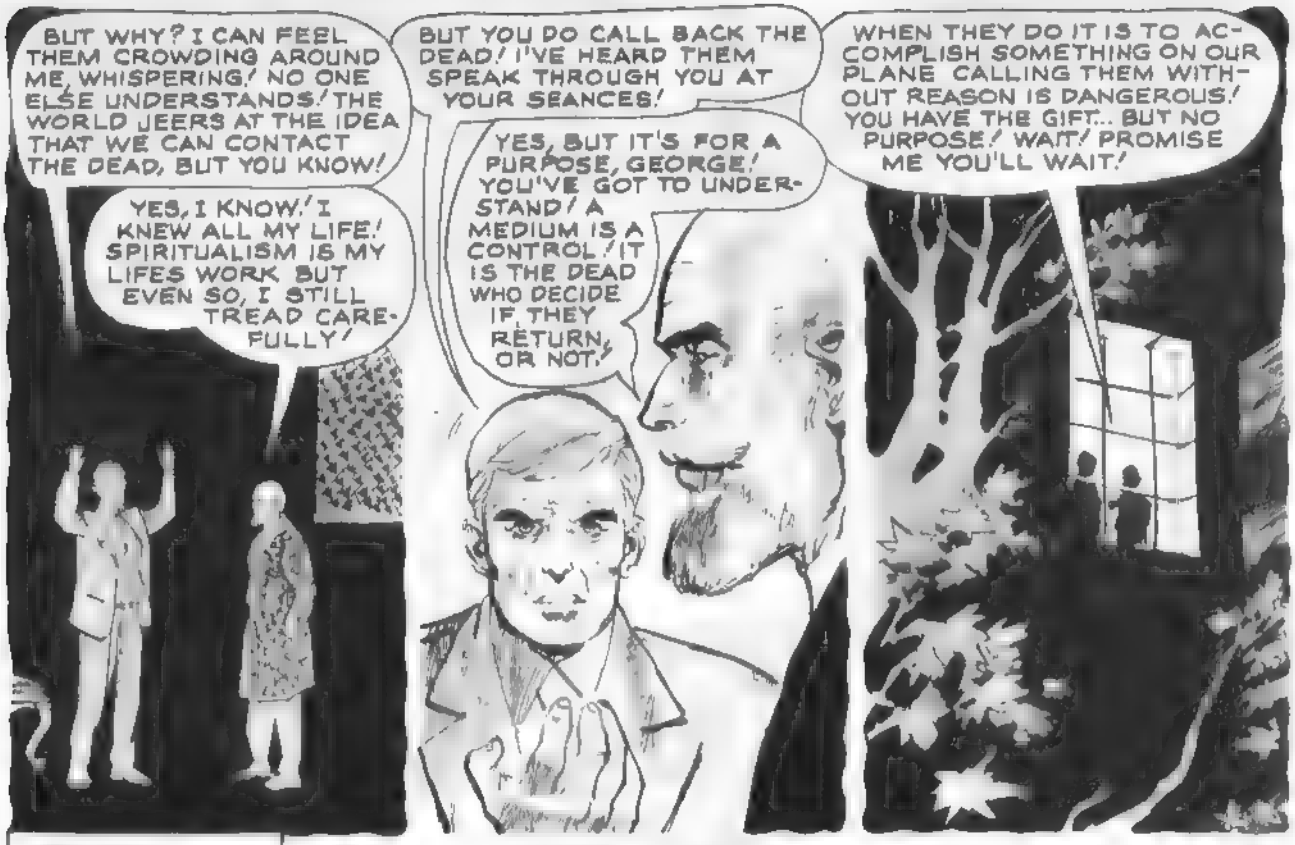
NO, PAUL! DON'T PAUL!
GET OUT OF HERE, JOHN--AND GOODBYE!

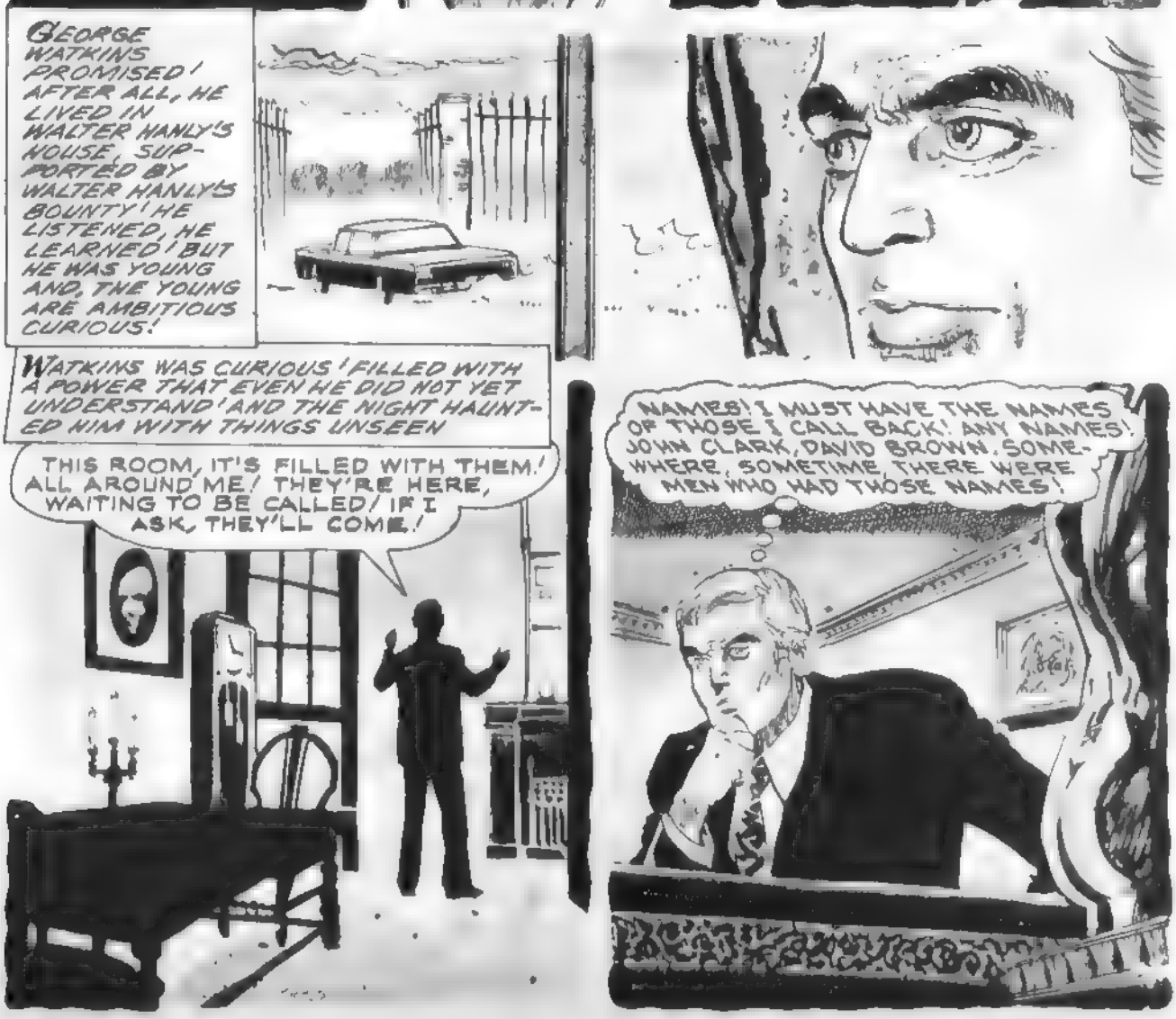
BOOOOOM!

HOW JOHN HARDING ESCAPED, HE NEVER KNEW! DAYS OF INSANITY CONTROLLED HIM... BUT SOMEHOW, HE WAS GOING BACK ON THE LONG, LONG TRAIL...

ONE MONTH LATER, THEY FOUND HIM HALF-STARVED AND OUT OF HIS MIND! HE KEPT REPEATING OVER AND OVER AGAIN ONE FACT THAT BROUGHT PITY TO THOSE WHO HELD HIM...
THE GIANT HAD TWO HORNS AND A POINTED TAIL... TWO HORNS--PAUL KILLED THE DEVIL--HA, HA... AHA, HA, HA, HA!

SOMETHING'S BOUND TO GO WRONG WHEN AN AMATEUR TOYS WITH THE POWERS OF THE MASTER. IN THIS CASE, THE MASTER WAS A SORCERER WHO LEFT HIS YOUNG AND FOOLISH ASSISTANT ALONE--- WITH THESE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS...
NEVER KILL A CORPSE
GEORGE WATKINS IS BEYOND THE PALE NOW! DEAD! SO PERHAPS HE HAS FOUND THE EXPLANATIONS, BUT ALL THAT WE, THE LIVING, KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON THIS SPHERE! BEGINNING WITH THE NIGHT THAT WALTER HANLY FOUND WATKINS HOVERING MIDWAY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!
GEORGE! YOU FOOL! I'VE WARNED YOU! THE DEAD ARE NOT TO BE CALLED BACK LIGHTLY!
WAKE UP! YOU'RE TOYING WITH THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!
WHAT WHAT IS IT
OH, IT IT'S YOU, MR. HANLY! I THOUGHT YOU HAD GONE OUT FOR THE EVENING! WHAT.. WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE! YOU WERE IN A TRANCE! IN THE BEGINNING OF A TRANCE!
THEN I'VE DONE IT! THIS POWER THAT I FEEL IN ME IS REAL!
I'VE NEVER DOUBTED IT! THAT'S WHY I'VE TAUGHT YOU! SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE A GREAT MEDIUM, BUT YOU'RE NOT READY YET!


BUT WHY? I CAN FEEL THEM CROWDING AROUND ME, WHISPERING! NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS! THE WORLD JEERS AT THE IDEA THAT WE CAN CONTACT THE DEAD, BUT YOU KNOW!
YES, I KNOW! I KNEW ALL MY LIFE! SPIRITUALISM IS MY LIFES WORK BUT EVEN SO, I STILL TREAD CAREFULLY!
BUT YOU DO CALL BACK THE DEAD! I'VE HEARD THEM SPEAK THROUGH YOU AT YOUR SEANCES!
YES, BUT IT'S FOR A PURPOSE, GEORGE! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND! A MEDIUM IS A CONTROL! IT IS THE DEAD WHO DECIDE IF THEY RETURN, OR NOT!
WHEN THEY DO IT IS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING ON OUR PLANE CALLING THEM WITHOUT REASON IS DANGEROUS! YOU HAVE THE GIFT... BUT NO PURPOSE! WAIT! PROMISE ME YOU'LL WAIT!

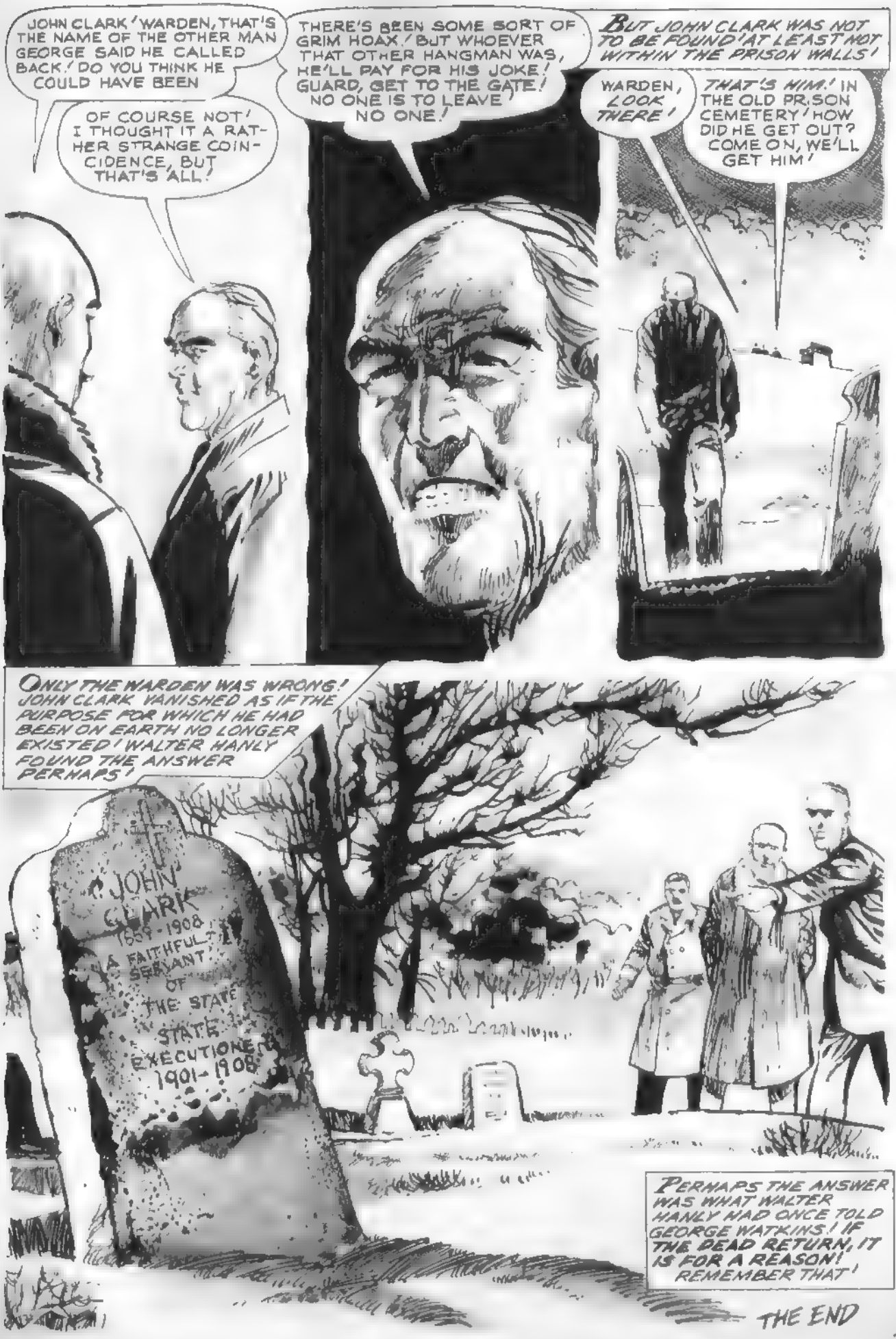

GEORGE WATKINS PROMISED! AFTER ALL, HE LIVED IN WALTER HANLY'S HOUSE, SUPPORTED BY WALTER HANLY'S BOUNTY! HE LISTENED, HE LEARNED! BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND, THE YOUNG ARE AMBITIOUS CURIOUS!
WATKINS WAS CURIOUS! FILLED WITH A POWER THAT EVEN HE DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND! AND THE NIGHT HAUNTED HIM WITH THINGS UNSEEN
THIS ROOM, IT'S FILLED WITH THEM! ALL AROUND ME! THEY'RE HERE, WAITING TO BE CALLED! IF I ASK, THEY'LL COME!
NAMES! I MUST HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE I CALL BACK! ANY NAMES! JOHN CLARK, DAVID BROWN. SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, THERE WERE MEN WHO HAD THOSE NAMES!

DAVID BROWN.. JOHN CLARK COME! I AM WAITING
AFTERWARDS, GEORGE WATKINS SPOKE OF THE HEAVINESS WHICH BEGAN TO PRESS HIM DOWN! THEN. NOTHING... A BLACK BOTTOM A DEEP DARK PIT... FROM WHICH BE EMERGED DAZED. WEAK..
D-DOORBELL THAT'S THE DOORBELL!
TOC TOC
YES, WHAT IS IT?
YOU SENT FOR ME! MY NAME IS DAVID BROWN!
GEORGE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY AWARE UNTIL THEN! BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, THE AIR WAS COLD! SUDDENLY, HE WAS AFRAID! SUDDENLY THE MAN AT THE DOOR STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT!
BROWN? WHAT SORT OF A JOKE IS THIS? T-THERE'S N-NO DAVID BROWN! I JUST MADE UP THAT NAME!
I AM DAVID BROWN!
Y-YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! GET OUT!
BUT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! WITH YOU! YOU CALLED ME I CAME!
THEN GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! T-THIS IS A DREAM! IN A MINUTE I'LL WAKE UP AND YOU'LL BE GONE!

PERHAPS GEORGE WATKINS WAS ILL! PERHAPS HE JUST IMAGINED WHAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING!
GO AWAY. GO BACK YOU AREN'T REAL, YOU CAN'T BE!
DEVIL! CORPSE WHATEVER YOU ARE! GO BACK! STAY AWAY
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
NO! THE END WAS NOT IMAGINATION! THE KNIFE WAS THERE AND GEORGE WATKINS WAS AFRAID! HE WAS SITTING AT THE DESK SHIVERING WHEN WALTER HANLY RETURNED!
GEORGE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HAPPENED? I DON'T THINK I KNOW! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HE'S DEAD! BUT WHO IS HE?
NO ONE! A SHADOW! I CALLED HIM, HE SAID! SO HE CAME FROM THE DEAD! I KILLED A CORPSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?
GEORGE TOLD HIS STORY! THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME HIS STORY WAS BELIEVED FOR THE FIRST TIME. AND THE LAST!
BUT I CALLED TWO MEN, WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE, JOHN CLARK? MR. HANLY, YOU SAID THE DEAD RETURN FOR A PURPOSE! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN MAKE THE POLICE BELIEVE YOUR STORY AS I DO! THAT'S ALL I CAN HOPE FOR!
HOPE? YES, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE! BUT SOMETIMES, ONLY A FORLORN HOPE! FOR WATKINS THERE WAS NO HOPE POLICEMEN DO NOT BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, WATKINS, YOUR STORY IS DIFFERENT, ANYWAY! VERY INTERESTING!
INTERESTING? IT'S TRUE! EVERY WORD!

MR HANLY, MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT LYING!
HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, GEORGE! I WARNED YOU, THERE ARE THINGS NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH!
I'LL BACK YOU UP IN COURT, GEORGE, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN! I KNOW THEY WON'T!
THEY'LL LISTEN, HANLY! BUT I DOUBT IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THAT CORPSE ON THE FLOOR! FOR A SPOOK, HE LOOKS PRETTY SOLID TO ME!
WAIT IF HE EXISTS, THEN JOHN CLARK MUST EXIST! FIND HIM! HE'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
SURE! SURE! BUT, MEANWHILE IT'S MY DUTY TO WARN YOU THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BUT THE POLICE NEVER FOUND JOHN CLARK! NO ONE BELIEVED IN SUCH A MAN! REALLY, HOW COULD THEY?
JOHN CLARK! COME NOW, MR WATKINS, YOU'VE CARRIED THIS FAIRY TALE FAR ENOUGH!
I'M NOT A MURDERER! THE MAN I KILLED WAS ALREADY DEAD! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM!
IF YOU'D JUST FIND JOHN CLARK, HE COULD EXPLAIN ONLY HE!
EXPLAIN? THAT YOU CREATED HIM? THAT YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD! REALLY, MR. WATKINS, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
THE STATES ATTORNEY SMILED! BUT HE WAS NOT SMILING AT THE END! THERE IS NO HUMOR IN A DEATH SENTENCE!
TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD!
WATKINS STOOD ON THE SCAFFOLD SCREAMING FOR JOHN CLARK... BUT... NO ONE LISTENED!
NO! YOU FOOLS! FIND JOHN CLARK! FIND JOHN CLARK!

HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE TRAP DROPPED! THEN THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY WITNESSES AS THEY FILED OUT, SOBER AS MEN ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH!
IT'S OVER THEN, WARDEN?
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO CLAIM WATKINS BODY, HANLY, BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HERE!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I JUST FELT A SUDDEN CHILL, AS IF A COLD WIND HAD SPRUNG UP!
I'M SORRY IF I'VE BROKEN ANY RULES! I'LL WAIT IN YOUR OFFICE UNTIL I CAN CLAIM THE BODY!
WARDEN, WARDEN!
PORTER, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT!
SO THE GUARD TOLD ME! I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXECUTION WAS SET FOR ELEVEN! IT'S ONLY TEN NOW!
BUT THE GUARD TELLS ME THE EXECUTION S ALREADY OVER!
IT IS... I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU WERE ILL! THE OTHER MAN HAD ALL THE PROPER PAPERS. I HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT HIM!
OTHER MAN? WHAT OTHER MAN?
THE MAN WHO HANGED WATKINS! HIS PAPERS WERE IN ORDER! JOHN CLARK, EXECUTIONER! HE SUGGESTED THE CHANGE IN TIME!


JOHN CLARK! WARDEN, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE OTHER MAN GEORGE SAID HE CALLED BACK! DO YOU THINK HE COULD HAVE BEEN
OF COURSE NOT! I THOUGHT IT A RATHER STRANGE COINCIDENCE, BUT THAT'S ALL!
THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF GRIM HOAX! BUT WHOEVER THAT OTHER HANGMAN WAS, HE'LL PAY FOR HIS JOKE! GUARD, GET TO THE GATE! NO ONE IS TO LEAVE! NO ONE!
BUT JOHN CLARK WAS NOT TO BE FOUND! AT LEAST NOT WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS!
WARDEN, LOOK THERE!
THAT'S HIM! IN THE OLD PRISON CEMETERY! HOW DID HE GET OUT? COME ON, WE'LL GET HIM!
ONLY THE WARDEN WAS WRONG! JOHN CLARK VANISHED AS IF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ON EARTH NO LONGER EXISTED! WALTER HANLY FOUND THE ANSWER PERHAPS!
JOHN CLARK 1869-1908 A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE STATE STATE EXECUTIONER 1901-1908
PERHAPS THE ANSWER WAS WHAT WALTER HANLY HAD ONCE TOLD GEORGE WATKINS! IF THE DEAD RETURN, IT IS FOR A REASON! REMEMBER THAT!
THE END

TEAR HIM APART

YOUR NAME IS CHARLIE PATCH... AN ORDINARY GUY, BUT YOU HAD DREAMS OF SOMETHING *MORE!* THAT WAS YOUR TROUBLE.

HELP! PUT ME DOWN! AIIEEEE!!

THIS WAS YOU AT ONE TIME... WITH YOUR BEES, NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD!

COME OUT YOU RASCALS! YOU KNOW YOUR FRIEND DON'T YOU! HA HA!

AND HERE COMES YOUR EMPLOYER ... A WEALTHY, CHARMING AND JUST WOMAN...

HEY CHARLIE! H'YAR COMES MISS CAROL!

YEAH .. OKAY, JOE!

PLUS-CAROL LEIGHTON WAS A *BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!*

HELLO, BOYS! HOW IS EVERYTHING GOING?

HOWDY, MISS CAROL! JUST FINE!!

AND REMEMBER HOW PROUD YOU WERE, CHARLIE, WHEN *SHE* TOOK AN INTEREST IN *YOU!*

...AND YOU, CHARLIE, ARE THE BEE-HIVES IN GOOD CONDITION?

...IN TOP CONDITION MA'AM! LOOK... I'LL SHOW YOU!

HEAR THEIR DEEP BUZZIN? THAT MEANS THEY'RE STRONG AND HEALTHY!

UH...YES! WELL I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF THEM!

IN GENERAL, I FIND EVERYTHING WELL-TENDED! I'M VERY PLEASED, BOYS! YOU'LL ALL FIND A BONUS IN YOUR PAYCHECKS!

THAT'S SURE DECENT OF YOU, MISS CAROL!

THEN WHEN SHE SINGLED YOU OUT AGAIN, CHARLIE, YOUR HEART ALMOST STOPPED BEATING!

WELL... GOODBYE, BOYS! I'LL BE OVER NEXT SATURDAY! TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF THE BEES CHARLIE!

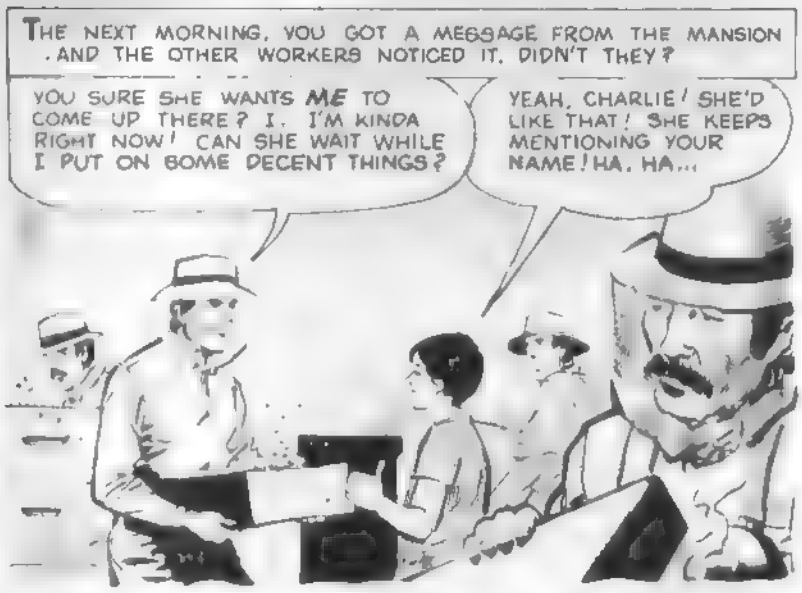
I WILL, MISS CAROL!

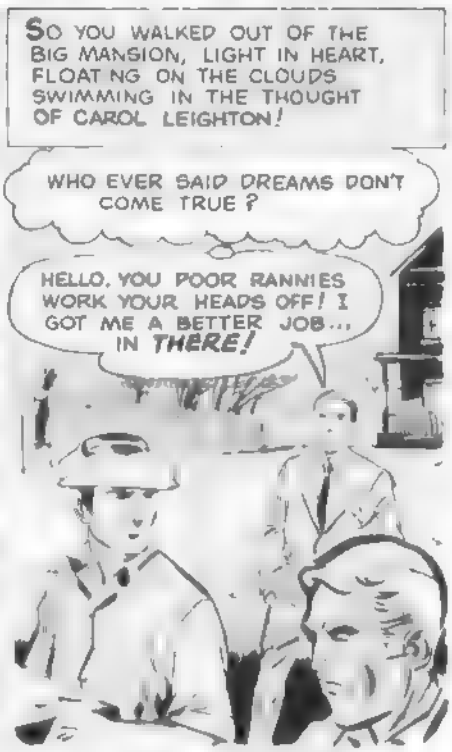
THERE GOES A FINE PERSON! ONLY WOMAN I'VE LIKED WORKING FOR! SHE TREATS ALL O'US FAIR AN' SQUARE!

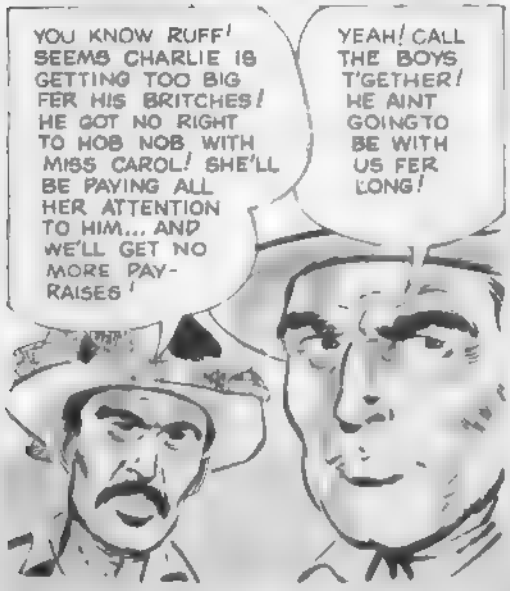
SHE SURE DOES!

THAT NIGHT YOU FELT PRETTY PECULIAR, HER BEAUTY HAD AFFECTED YOU...
SHE SURE IS NICE! OH... IF ONLY I WERE ATTRACTIVE TO HER! WE COULD MARRY...
WHAT WAS THAT? NOW HOW D'YA SUPPOSE ANY O'MY BEES GOT INSIDE MY SHACK?
BUZZZ-Z-Z-
THEN IT HAPPENED CHARLIE! YOUR BEES PAID YOU A VISIT!
THEY'RE GROWING! ...MUST BE MY IMAGINATION! IT'S GOTTA BE!
IT WAS CRAZY... FANTASTIC! BUT YOU WERE LIVING IT!
YOU WILL COME WITH US, CHARLIE PATCH!
G-GET AWAY FROM ME! N-NO! DON'T!
WE CANNOT DELAY AN INSTANT! WE MUST HURRY!
L-LET ME DOWN! HELP! HELP!! AAIIIEE!!!
THEY TOOK YOU THROUGH THE GATES OF THEIR CITY... A HIVE THAT WAS A METROPOLIS FOR GIANT BEES!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

THEY LED YOU THROUGH MAZE AFTER MAZE... PASSAGEWAY AFTER PASSAGEWAY... UNTIL YOU STOOD BEFORE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE YOU HAD EVER SEEN!
WELCOME, CHARLIE PATCH! IN RETURN FOR YOUR LIFE-LONG SERVICES YOU SHALL BECOME MY MATE!
B-BUT... I... THIS IS INSANE! I'M ONLY A WORKER ...A...A DRONE YOU MIGHT SAY! AND YOU'RE A... QUEEN!
YOU DO US A GREAT INJUSTICE MAJESTY! YOU SINGLE OUT AN INSIGNIFICENT DRONE! BZZZZ!
SILENCE! I HAVE SPOKEN! PREPARE HIM FOR THE CORONATION!!
SO, IN A FEW MOMENTS, YOU WERE TAKEN TO A SPECIAL CHAMBER TO BE DRESSED FOR THE CEREMONY...
THESE WORKER BEES DON'T MIND ME AT ALL... BUT THE DRONES... -THEY'RE ANGRY!
BZZZZZZZ
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE CHOSEN OVER US! WE WILL NOT PERMIT IT!
NO! IT WASN'T MY DOING! AAAGHH!
YOU SHALL NOT LIVE! SURROUND HIM, BROTHERS! STIFLE HIM WITH OUR WINGS! STING HIM TO DEATH!
AAAIEEEEEE!!
ONE BY ONE, THE HUGE FURRY STINGERS PLUNGED INTO YOUR BODY, FILLING YOU WITH THEIR VENOM! THE DARKNESS CLOSED IN... YOU WERE FALLING.. FALLING...
NO DON'T!! Y...A...AHHH! WH...WHA...? WHERE AM I? OHHH... I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING! BRRR...!







YES, CHARLIE... YOUR DREAM DID COME TRUE!

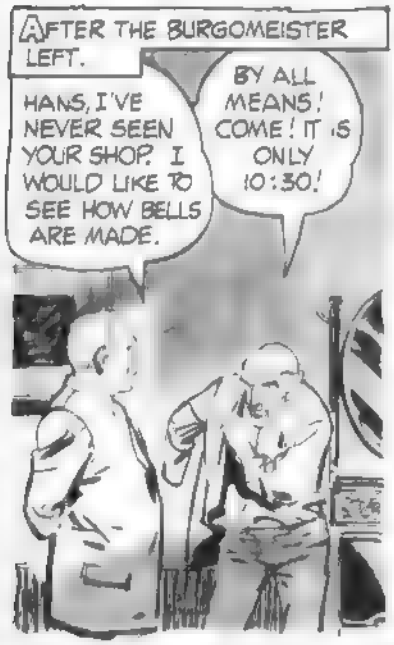
THE END

THE HORROR BELL!

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAME SHOUTS OF ACCLAIM FOR THE SINISTER-LOOKING HUNCHBACK WHOSE BELL-CASTING RESULTED IN MASTERPIECES. THE PEOPLE OF DORFSTADT, WERE PROUD TO CLAIM HIM AS ONE OF THE TOWN'S LEADING CITIZENS, DESPITE HIS EXTREME UGLINESS. BUT WHAT WAS THE SECRET INGREDIENT THAT MADE HIS BELLS PRODUCE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TONES EVER HEARD? FOR THAT ANSWER, DEAR READER, READ ON....

THEN IT IS ALL ARRANGED. YOU WILL DELIVER THE BELLS WITHIN THE WEEK. BY THE WAY WHAT IS IT YOU USE TO PRODUCE SUCH A WONDERFUL TONE.
AHH....THAT IS MY SECRET!
IF ONLY HE KNEW THAT THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF DORFSTADT HAD A LOT TO DO WITH THE TONE.. BUT THAT'S MY SECRET!
I HAD NOT EXPECTED YOU TO FINISH THE BELLS SO SOON!
I HAD ANOTHER ORDER....TO REPLACE THE BELL OF THE TOWN HALL, BUT I DECIDED TO LET THEM WAIT!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FINISHED. LOOK WHO CAME WHILE YOU WERE IN THE SHOP!
JOHANN MIER....MY OLD FRIEND! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN HEIDELBERG.
HANS, I'M RETURNING TO DORFSTADT TO RETIRE. MY DOCTOR TELLS ME I HAVE BUT A FEW MORE YEARS TO LIVE!
OH, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT MY FRIEND.
LATER IN THE EVENING, AFTER SUPPER ...
YOU SHOULD NOT FEEL BADLY, MY FRIEND. YOU HAVE LIVED A GOOD LIFE!
I ENVY YOU, HANS. I HAVE NO WIFE NO RELATIVES.
AHH! BUT YOU HAVE FRIENDS, JOHANN:
YES, YOU ARE MY DEAREST FRIEND, HANS, AND FOR THAT REASON, I HAVE MADE YOU MY ONLY HEIR.
THAT IS TRULY A FINE GESTURE, GOOD FRIEND. A KNOCK! WHO WOULD CALL AT THIS HOUR?
TOC TOC

AHH...IT IS THE BURGOMEISTER.
I HAVE COME FROM A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. WE WISH TO KNOW WHEN YOU WILL HAVE THE BELL READY.
I WILL GET TO WORK ON IT TOMORROW.
GOOD! AHH....I SEE JOHANN IS HERE. WE MET IN TOWN THIS AFTERNOON.

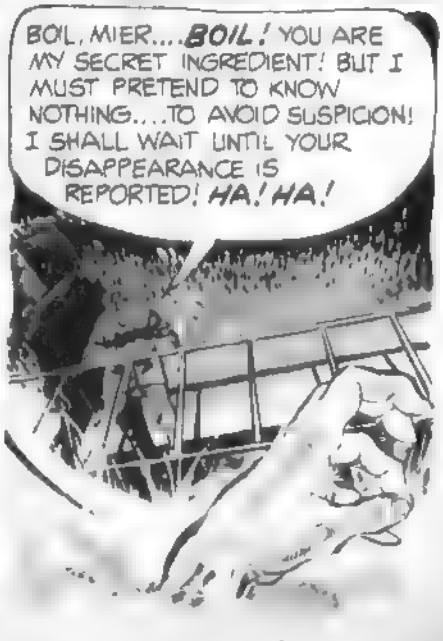

AFTER THE BURGOMEISTER LEFT.
HANS, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR SHOP. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW BELLS ARE MADE.
BY ALL MEANS! COME! IT IS ONLY 10:30!

VERY FASCINATING! LOOK, THE CAULDRON BOILS ALREADY!
YES, IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG.
BUT WHERE AM I TO GET ANOTHER CHILD TO THROW IN? THE VILLAGE GROWS SCARCE WITH CHILDREN...

PERHAPS MIER WOULD SERVE AS MY SECRET INGREDIENT, I WOULD ACCOMPLISH A DOUBLE PURPOSE! I WOULD INHERIT HIS MONEY!

HANS, THEY SAY THAT YOU HAVE A SECRET INGREDIENT THAT MAKES YOUR BELLS SOUND LIKE THE VOICES OF ANGELS. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO?
YOU SHALL SOON SEE!

GNYAA

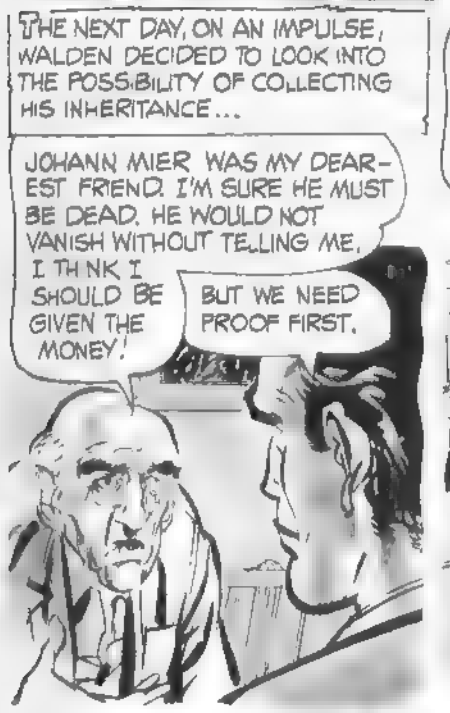

BOIL, MIER....BOIL! YOU ARE MY SECRET INGREDIENT! BUT I MUST PRETEND TO KNOW NOTHING....TO AVOID SUSPICION! I SHALL WAIT UNTIL YOUR DISAPPEARANCE IS REPORTED! HA! HA!

AFTER FINISHING HIS FIENDISH WORK, WALDEN RETURNED TO THE HOUSE....
OH! YOU'RE STILL AWAKE? ER.... JOHANN HAS ALREADY LEFT.
THAT'S STRANGE. IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOOD NIGHT.
NERVOUSLY, WALDEN AWAITED THE REPORT OF MIER'S DISAPPEARANCE. FINALLY, TWO DAYS LATER...
GOOD DAY HANS. JOHANN MIER SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE THE LAST TO SEE HIM.
YES, THE SAME NIGHT THAT YOU WERE AT MY HOUSE. BUT HE LEFT SOON AFTER YOU.
WHEN HE DIDN'T RETURN TO HIS HOTEL ROOM WE ENTERED AND FOUND THIS AMONG HIS EFFECTS. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE HIS ONLY HEIR?
WHY, YES.... BUT YOU DON'T THINK I WOULD KILL MIER FOR HIS MONEY?
BUT I DIDN'T SAY MIER HAD BEEN KILLED! I ONLY SAID HE WAS MISSING!
OH. .ER....IT WAS THE WAY YOU SAID IT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUGGESTING...
THAT NIGHT, AFTER FINISHING THE CASTING OF THE BELL, WALDEN RETIRED...
I ALMOST MADE A DANGEROUS SLIP TODAY....BUT I DON'T THINK THE BURGOMEISTER SUSPECTS ANYTHING.
BUT NO SOONER HAD THE BELL-MAKER FALLEN ASLEEP THAN A STARTLING THING HAPPENED....
WHA. ..WHAT'S THAT? A BELL TOLLING! AND JOHANN'S VOICE! IT'S MY BELL.....IT'S COMING FROM THE SHOP!
DOONGGGGG
AWAKEN HANS WALDEN AWAKEN
THIS CANNOT BE!....BUT THAT VOICE...
DONGGGG

NO ONE IS HERE....BUT IT CAN'T BE! THE BELL IS TOLLING BY ITSELF! STOP! DO YOU HEAR ME?

IT'S STOPPED. BUT HOW COULD IT RING BY ITSELF? WAIT.... THAT VOICE...
YOU WILL KNOW NO REST TILL I AM AVENGED, HANS WALDEN. I SHALL TOLL EVERY NIGHT AT 11:00.

NO...NO! IT CAN'T BE! JOHANN IS DEAD!


THE NEXT DAY, ON AN IMPULSE, WALDEN DECIDED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLECTING HIS INHERITANCE...
JOHANN MIER WAS MY DEAREST FRIEND. I'M SURE HE MUST BE DEAD. HE WOULD NOT VANISH WITHOUT TELLING ME. I THINK I SHOULD BE GIVEN THE MONEY!
BUT WE NEED PROOF FIRST.

YOU SEE, WITHOUT PROOF, WE MUST ASSUME HE IS STILL ALIVE. ACCORDING TO GERMAN LAW, A MAN CANNOT BE CONSIDERED DEAD UNTIL TEN YEARS AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE!
WHAT?

TEN YEARS! I'M TRAPPED. I CANNOT TELL THEM, AND THEY WON'T GIVE ME THE MONEY... WAIT! WHAT'S THAT? THE BELL AGAIN!

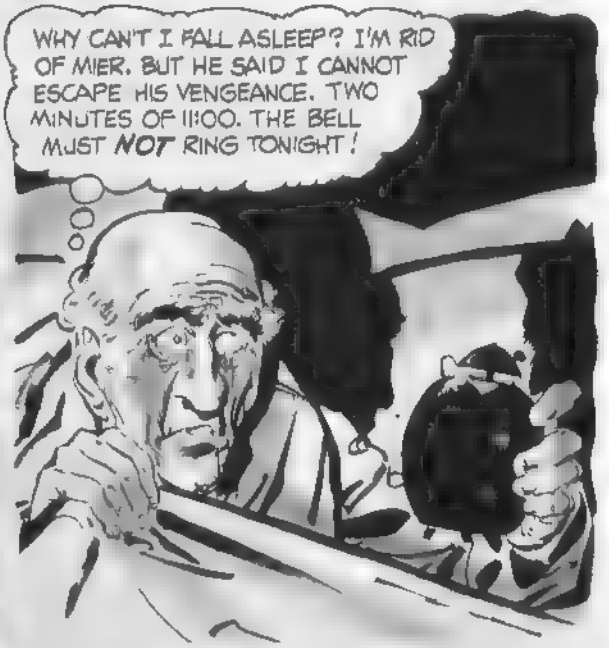
I WON'T GO OUT...I WON'T LISTEN TO IT! I'LL SHUT OUT THE SOUND! OHH....HOW TERRIBLE IT SOUNDS! IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER BELLS!

HANS WALDEN....I WILL HAUNT YOJR EVERY HOUR TILL YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS!
NO! STOP THE BELL FROM TOLLING! MY HEAD IS SPLITTING!

THE NEXT DAY, WALDEN RESOLVED ON A PLAN...
I'LL RID MYSELF OF YOU! I'LL FINISH UP THE BELL AND HAVE IT PLACED IN THE TOWN HALL.
IT WILL DO NO GOOD! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON....
IT IS AS I PROMISED, IS IT NOT? THIS IS CLEARLY THE FINEST BELL I HAVE EVER CAST!
I'M SURE IT IS! AND THIS WOULD BE A HAPPIER DAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DORFSTADT CHILDREN! HO! LET THE BELL PEAL FORTH!

NO! RECALL! LEGEND DECREES THAT THE BELL IS ONLY TO BE TOLLED FOR A PROCLAMATION OR WHEN AN INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE!
VERY TRUE. DO NOT LET THE BELL PEAL!


WHY CAN'T I FALL ASLEEP? I'M RID OF MIER. BUT HE SAID I CANNOT ESCAPE HIS VENGEANCE. TWO MINUTES OF 11:00. THE BELL MUST NOT RING TONIGHT!

IT'S STARTED! NO....I MUST BE IMAGINING IT! OHH, I CAN'T SHUT IT OUT....MY BRAIN IS THROBBING! I MUST STOP IT!
DONNG
DONNG

MIER! STOP IT, DO YOU HEAR? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? I'LL HAVE TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE GIVES MY SECRET AWAY!

MOST AMAZING! THE BELL TOLLS BY ITSELF. BUT WHAT A TERRIBLE SOUND! IT'S LIKE THE SOUND OF DEATH!
BUT IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
STOP IT! MAKE HIM STOP! MAKE MIER STOP TOLLING THE BELL!

MIER? WHAT HAS HE GOT TO DO WITH THE BELL TOLLING BY ITSELF?
IT'S MIER! HE'S DOING IT! HE'S IN THE BELL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THREW HIM INTO THE BUBBLING CAULDRON....JUST LIKE I DID WITH ALL THE CHILDREN I KIDNAPPED! THAT WAS MY SECRET INGREDIENT! BUT MAKE HIM STOP BEFORE I GO CRAZY!

AND WITH THIS CONFESSION, THE BELL SUDDENLY STOPPED TOLLING, AND IT NEVER TOLLED AGAIN...FOR THE VERY SOUND OF ITS TONE WAS ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE MIND!
THE END

THE MONSTERS
AM I THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO SEES THEM AS THEY REALLY ARE? AM I THE ONLY MAN WHO KNOWS THE DANGER AND THE HORROR OF THE MONSTERS AROUND US!
HOW DOES A SUBWAY MOTORMAN GET TO WORK? HE RIDES THE SUBWAY!
WHEW! NOT SO BAD TO DRIVE THESE BUGGIES, BUT RIDING IN ONE... OFFF.. IS NO CINCH! WISH I COULD AFFORD A CAR... BUT I CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING... EXCEPT A DULL ROUTINE..
BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT LARRY FROST'S "DULL ROUTINE" VANISHED THE CAR LURCHED VIOLENTLY AND LARRY TRIPPED!
WHAT THE--
OWWW-- MY HEAD!

HEY Y'ALL RIGHT, MAC?
YES... YES... JUST A FUNNY WHIRRING IN MY EYES...
OHH... MY HEAD. WHAT A BUMP... OHHH
THE INCIDENT PASSED. THE GIRL GOT OFF THREE STOPS LATER, LARRY LEFT BUT THEN IT BEGAN!
GOOD LORD! LOOK AT THAT MONSTER! DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE SEE IT
LARRY SAW A SUBWAY GUARD HE RAN FRANTICALLY TO HIM
LOOK LOOK AT THAT! WHAT IS IT? MAN, WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS WHAT? YOU MEAN THAT GUY WALKING DOWN THE RAMP? WHAT ABOUT HIM? JUST ANOTHER GUY, AIN'T HE?
YOU MEAN HE LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY MAN TO YOU? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I SAW A MONSTER!
THAT GUY A MONSTER HA HA! Y'OUGHTA GET MORE SLEEP! HAVE YOUR NIGHTMARES THEN! HA HA!
IN A DAZE, LARRY MADE HIS WAY TO THE CAR-BARN HE BARELY HEARD THE DISPATCHER SPEAK TO HIM
MAYBE IT WAS A NIGHTMARE! NO ONE ELSE SAW IT SO HOW.
I. OH HUH?
WAKE UP, BOY! I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU YOU TAKE THE EAST SIDE TUNNEL UP TO 90TH STREET TONIGHT!
LARRY HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO PONDER HIS PROBLEM, FOR THERE WERE FEW, IF ANY RIDERS ON THAT ROUTE LATE AT NIGHT IT WAS A LONELY WILD STRETCH OF TUNNEL, WHERE ANYTHING MIGHT HAPPEN..
THAT "WHIRRING" IN MY EYES WISH IT WOULD STOP MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MADE ME SEE THAT.. THAT "MONSTER" BRR WHAT A SCARE I GOT...
CLOSED

WHEN THE ABANDONED WEST SIDE SUBWAY TUNNEL'S MOUTH LOOMED AHEAD, LARRY'S MUSINGS WERE CUT SHORT.
ANOTHER ONE! ANOTHER MONSTER! GOING DOWN THE CLOSED-OFF TUNNEL! I MUST BE GOING CRAZY!
LARRY STOPPED THE PASSENGER-LESS TRAIN HE HAD TO SEE WHERE THE MONSTER HAD GONE.. IF, INDEED HE HAD SEEN A MONSTER!
THIS'LL THROW ME OFF SCHEDULE BUT I'M ALONE ON THE TRACK... AND I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THAT THAT THING!
SUDDENLY LARRY SAW A SCENE OF HORROR THAT ROOTED HIM TO THE SPOT
THE ABANDONED TUNNEL WAS DARK AND DANK. IT SEEMED TO WHISPER OF THE HORROR THAT LAY AHEAD
THERE! A LIGHT UP AHEAD! THEN I'M NOT CRAZY! I DID SEE SOMETHING! THERE IS SOMETHING.. SOMEONE.. UP AHEAD!
WE MUST KILL THE TWO HUMANS WHO SEE US AS WE REALLY ARE! OTHERWISE THEY WILL LEARN THAT WE GROUNDINGS ARE TAKING OVER THE WORLD!
BUT ARE YOU SURE THEY CAN SEE THROUGH THE HYPNOTIC SCREEN WE HAVE THROWN OVER THE EARTH?
OF COURSE! DID I NOT SEE THE FREAK ACCIDENT? THEY BUMPED THEIR HEADS TOGETHER.. ATTUNED THEIR SIGHT MECHANISMS TO SEE US AS WE REALLY ARE!
THEN THEY MUST DIE! DEATH TO THEM! AIII! KILL! KILL!
WE HAVE THE GIRL NOW.. IN THE DISINTEGRATING TOP! WE SHALL HAVE THE MAN BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OUT!
PLEASE. PLEASE LET ME OUT!

THEY'RE GIBBERING ABOUT ME AND THAT GIRL THE ONE I BUMPED INTO! THEY'VE GOT HER IN THAT CONTRAPTION! I'VE GOT TO GET HELP!
YAAA! HELP!
SPURRED BY TERROR, LARRY RAN FROM THE ABANDONED TUNNEL, AS THE MACHINE NOW GAVE OFF AN OMINOUS HUMMING SOUND.
YAIEE!
SHE DISINTEGRATES--- FROM FLESH TO BONES!
THE GIRL'S TERRIBLE SCREAMS STOPPED ABRUPTLY AS THE HUMMING BECAME A HIGH WHINE THEN...
SHE IS NO MORE!
YAAAAA..
MELT... MELT! THUS WE WILL RID OURSELVES OF ALL WHO DISCOVER OUR PLOT TO CONQUER THE WORLD! HA HA!
WITH FEVERISH HASTE LARRY THREW THE CAR INTO MOTION.. AND THEN THE LONE PASSENGER MADE A STARTLING STATEMENT
HURRY! HURRY PLEASE! I SAW MONSTERS ON THE TRACK!
WHAT--- YOU SAW THEM TOO! BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THERE'S A THIRD PERSON WHO CAN SEE THEM!
MEANWHILE, LARRY FROST DASHED MADLY BACK TO HIS CAR! HE HAD TO GET THE POLICE TAKE THEM TO THE ABANDONED TUNNEL..
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'M SCARED-- HURRY! GET THE CAR MOVING, PLEASE...
I.. I THOUGHT THE CAR WAS EMPTY!

WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE KILLING A GIRL BACK THERE AND PLANNING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD! AND THEY CAN DO IT BECAUSE THEY LOOK LIKE HUMANS TO EVERYONE ELSE! HEY.. I CAN'T MOVE! I CAN'T STOP THE TRAIN!
HA-HA! WHY KEEP UP THE GAME ANY LONGER! OF COURSE YOU CANNOT MOVE, FOOL! I'VE HYPNOTIZED YOU! HA HA!
WHA... AHHH! YOU'RE ONE OF THEM
YES, BUT YOU COULD NOT SEE ME AS I REALLY AM UNTIL I CHOSE TO LET YOU! NOTHING SHALL STOP US FROM CONQUERING THE WORLD! HA HA!
NO! I'LL STOP YOU! I'LL AHHH-- THE HEAT--- I'M BURNING! YAAA!
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, FOOL EXCEPT DIE!
YOU REMEMBER THE STORIES IN THE NEWSPAPERS THE NEXT MORNING. "THE UNSOLVABLE MYSTERY" IT WAS CALLED. WHEN THE SUBWAY TRAIN STOPPED, GUARDS LOOKED IN AND SAW.
GLORY BE! A SKELETON AT THE CONTROLS OF FROSTS TRAIN!
GASP! SAINTS PROTECT US! WILL Y'LOOK AT THE THING! WHAT IS IT-- WHAT DOES IT MEAN---
YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS! SO YOU BE CAREFUL! LOOK CAREFULLY--- SCRUTINIZE YOUR NEIGHBORS, THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS! ARE THEY WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE-- OR ARE THEY MONSTERS? PERHAPS THERE IS STILL TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ENSLAVEMENT BY THE MONSTERS ABOUT YOU!
THE END

STAY OUT OF MY GRAVE!
SIMON
THE RAIN PELTED DOWN HARD OVER THE GRASS-COVERED EARTH, SUDDENLY FROM UNDERNEATH A WET, GLISTENING TOMBSTONE CAME A HAND....IT GROPED AND TWISTED AND CLUTCHED. THEN THE SOFT, BLACK MUD SLIPPED AWAY AS THE HIDEOUS CORPSE BROKE THROUGH....LEAVING THE GRAVE BEHIND IT....

SLOWLY AND TORTUOUSLY, THE CREATURE SHUFFLED FORWARD...THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT...

IT TURNED. ITS SHUFFLE INCREASED IN TEMPO...

IT TRUDGED THROUGH THE MUD...

A TOWN'S LIGHTS TWINKLED THROUGH THE RAIN. THE CREATURE HEADED THERE...

IN THE TOWN, A MAN SETTLED BACK IN HIS CHAIR. HE WAS A NIGHT WATCHMAN.

THE MAN'S ONLY COMPANY IN HIS SHACK WERE THOUGHTS.... AND DREAMS...

SUDDENLY, THE WATCHMAN FROZE, HIS BLOOD STAGNATING WITH FRIGHT. A FIGURE STOOD BEFORE HIM...

Y-YOU'RE DEAD! I--I KILLED YOU FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME, HUGH. OTHERWISE I'LL NEVER REST IN PEACE!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! I--I WARN YOU!
COME, HUGH! COME WITH ME!..IT'S TIME!

YOU CAN'T COME BACK... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! YOU CAN'T!

THE BULLETS PIERCED THE DECAYED BODY WITH THREE SICKENING THUDS...
IT'S...NO USE, HUGH! I'M DEAD... REMEMBER? COME WITH ME! I BEAR YOU NO GRUDGE!

HUGH BACKED INTO A CORNER, STILL HOLDING THE SMOLDERING GUN...
HUGH! LISTEN!
NO... NO...

...ITS RANK ODOR SUFFOCATED HUGH...
HUGH!
GET AWAY...

WITH DESPERATION BORN OF TERROR, HUGH TOOK THE FIRE AXE AND SWUNG...

AND SWUNG AGAIN...

AND AGAIN....

HUGH BEAT AND HACKED AND HAMMERED AT THE RED, PULPY MESS ON THE FLOOR.

IT'S DONE! I'M SAFE....AGAIN!

HUGH LIKED THE SILENCE ABOUT HIM...THE DEATHLY SILENCE THAT SWATHED HIM IN SOFT BILLOWS...

IT'S OVER! I'VE... HEH...HEH.... WON! CAN'T... TAKE...ME...

HE LOOKED AT THE THING IN FRONT OF HIM UNTIL HE COULDN'T LOOK AT IT ANY LONGER. HE TURNED HIS BACK AND BURIED HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS...

SUDDENLY A HAND GRABBED HUGH FROM BEHIND....

HUGH STRUGGLED AGAINST THE VILE CREATURE..

GIVE UP, HUGH! ***YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE THING I'VE BECOME!***

HUGH'S STRUGGLING WAS TO NO AVAIL AS THE ROTTING THING DRAGGED HIM AWAY...

NO! **NO!**

HUGH HEARD THE SWEET LOLL OF THE WAVES WASHING ON THE SHORE....

HE FOUGHT WITH THE ENERGY OF A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DIE...

UGH!

CAN'T . TAKE... ME....

HE GOT THE UPPER HAND... PUSHING THE CORPSE'S FACE UNDER WATER...

I'LL ***KILL*** YOU....***AGAIN!*** YOU ***WON'T HAUNT ME AGAIN! NEVER... NEVER!***

HUGH LISTENED – THERE WAS NO SOUND. BUT SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE WATER CAME THAT LIVID HAND OF DEATH .
THE HAND CLAWED AT HIM... CLUTCHED AND TIGHTENED... GRABBING HIS SHIRT...THE FOG OF FEAR OVERCAME HUGH, BLACKING HIM OUT...
NO! NO!
WHEN HUGH AWOKE HE FOUND HIMSELF BEING DRAGGED BACK.. ...TO THE GRAVEYARD.
WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER, HUGH! YOU MUSTN'T BE FRIGHTENED!
WHA---T? PLEASE! OH, PLEASE.. ...SIMON... LET ME GO...
THE CEMETERY CALLED. THE CHIMES RANG OUT, THE GRAVE BECKONED.
LET ME GO, SIMON... I'LL DO ANYTHING!
THERE WAS NO TIME, ONLY MOVEMENT, HUGH SCREAMED..
PLEASE... HAVE PITY! OH... HAVE PITY!
COME, MY FRIEND!
HUGH COULD NOT BREAK FREE FROM THE GRASP OF THE PUTRID CORPSE....
DON'T DO THIS TO ME! LET ME FEEL THE AIR AND LIFE IN MY LUNGS! PLEASE!
I CAN'T HUGH, YOU KNOW THAT!
NO... NO... NO..
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, YOU'VE LIVED WHILE I ROTTED. AND NOW IT'S TIME TO ADMIT TO YOURSELF THAT YOU TOO...
...HAVE BEEN...
...DEAD!
THE END

TOMB OF OGRES

GREAT SCOTT, CAPTAIN! WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? WHATEVER IT IS ***WE'VE GOT TO KILL IT!***

MACAGNO

THE GREAT MASS RUMBLED, MOVED, SLID UPWARD, AND...

DON'T BE A FOOL! THERE'S MORE DANGER OUT HERE... FROM PNEUMONIA!
THE CAPTAIN IS RIGHT, LET'S DO AS HE SAYS...
IT'S HARD TO PLACE THE ERA OF THESE CARVINGS!
THAT DOESN'T CONCERN ME! I'VE JUST REALIZED SOMETHING! I... I THINK WE'RE LOST!
THEY WENT INTO THE BLACKNESS! IT WAS SHEEHAN WHO FOUND THE CARVING... BUT THE CAPTAIN DISCOVERED SOMETHING MORE OMINOUS!
LOST! IN THIS HORRIBLE PLACE? OH, NO!
BRONSON! LOOK!
UGH! WHAT IN PITY'S NAME IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW! W- WHAT A HORROR! IT TURNS MY STOMACH TO LOOK AT IT!
IT'S GOING BACK, BRONSON! IT WALKS LIKE A MAN!
IT IS NOT A MAN! MAYBE, MEN, TRAPPED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS WOULD EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, EVENTUALLY! BUT IT ISN'T A MAN!
CAPTAIN, DO YOU THINK THAT... THAT FREAK IS A DESCENDENT OF THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS?
IT COULD BE!
BUT, I DO KNOW THIS! IF THAT THING SHOWS ITSELF AGAIN... WE KILL IT!
AGREED! WE KILL IT!

THERE WERE HOURS OF SEARCHING FOR A WAY OUT! THEN...
CAPTAIN!
I SEE IT! DON'T MOVE! IT...IT'S BEEN PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE WITH US! BUT THE GAME IS OVER!
IT...IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING THAT...THAT UGLY!
BRONSON! THERE ARE MORE OF THEM!
MISS STANTON! GET BEHIND US!
SOME OF THE THINGS DIED, BUT THE OTHERS CAME ON... MUTTERING, GROWLING, HATING, WEAPONLESS! BUT THEY HAD FINGERS TO CLAW WITH, TALONS TO TEAR WITH!
HHHHHHHH
IT WAS SOON OVER! THREE HUMANS DIED! AND, SO, THEY NEVER KNEW THE IRONY OF THEIR FATE! EVEN, HAD THEY BEEN ABLE TO HEAR, THEY WOULD NOT OF UNDERSTOOD THE GIBBERISH SOUNDS THAT CAME AFTER!
THEY ARE DEAD! WHERE COULD SUCH VICIOUS ANIMALS HAVE COME FROM?
WHAT CAN THEY BE! THEY'RE SO PALE AND HAIRLESS...UGLY WORMS! YET THEY WALKED UPRIGHT LIKE US... LIKE MEN!
THE END

THE HEADS OF TERROR
GREED WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND TOM LEWIS AND BOB RONON AS THEY ROAMED THE SOUTH SEAS LOOKING FOR EASY MONEY! THEN, WHEN THEY'D FOUND A FORTUNE, THEY WEREN'T GOING TO LET A SILLY SUPERSTITION STAND IN THEIR WAY! BUT THEY WEREN'T LAUGHING AND STARK TERROR FROZE THEM WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE HORROR OF HORRORS...
TOM LEWIS AND BOB RONAN CHARTERED A SMALL SAILING VESSEL AND WERE ABOUT TEN HOURS OUT FROM TAHITI.
LOOKS LIKE A MAN IN THAT DUGOUT!
SWING ABOUT AND PICK HIM UP!
HE IS VERY SICK!
KULA! KULA!

THEY TOOK THE MAN TO THEIR CABIN... IT WAS THEN THEY NOTICED THE MAN'S CLENCHED FIST...
HE'S NOT GOING TO LIVE MUCH LONGER!
WONDER WHAT HE'S HOLDING ONTO SO TIGHTLY!

HERE! GIMME THAT BAG!
NO! NO!! DON'T! KULA!

A RUBY! THE BIGGEST I EVER SAW!

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
FROM THE EYE OF THE IDOL KULA! BUT DO NOT GO THERE! I AM CURSED FOR TAKING IT, AND YOU WILL BE, TOO! THE RUBY IS EVIL!

STOP THAT BABBLING AND TELL ME WHERE THE RUBY CAME FROM! TELL ME!
THE STONE IDOL...ON AN ISLAND...BUT BEWARE OF THE DANCING HEADS! THE DANCING HEADS!
SMACK

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE FRIGHTENED VOICE FADED AWAY AND WAS STILLED IN DEATH! A BURIAL AT SEA WAS A SIMPLE MATTER...
WONDER WHAT TRUTH THERE WAS IN HIS STORY?
HE TOLD US WHERE THE ISLAND IS. AND THAT ISLAND MUST HAVE ANOTHER EYE! THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADING!

THE SMALL SAILING VESSEL FINALLY APPROACHED AN UNCHARTED DOT OF LAND...
BRING HER IN CLOSER! WE'RE GOING ASHORE!
NO, M'SIEU... WE DO NOT LIKE THIS PLACE! WE'RE STAYING HERE!

WORD OF THE STRANGE CURSE HAD REACHED THE CREW AND NONE WOULD GO ASHORE...
FORGET THE HEADS! JUST THINK OF THE RUBY... LIKE THE ONE IN MY POCKET!
BOB! THOSE HEADS... BOUNCING AROUND... THEY GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME!
THOSE STILL ON YOUR MIND? LET'S GO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE RIGHT NOW!

THE TWO MEN PUSH THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE GROWTH, COMING CLOSER TO THE STRANGE, DANCING LIGHTS THAT SEEM TO BE POISED.. WAITING FOR THEM...
THEN...
I ALMOST WISH WE'D NEVER SEEN THAT RUBY!
STOP GIBBERING LIKE AN IDIOT! WE'LL HAVE THE ANSWER TO THIS THING IN A MINUTE!
L-LOOK!
LOOK!

BUT AS THEY TURNED TO RUN..
HEADS! THEY'RE ALL HEADS!
THEY'RE ALL AROUND US! WE CAN'T GET AWAY!
I'VE STILL GOT MY GUN! WE'LL SHOOT OUR WAY OUT!
I CAN'T STOP THEM... THEY KEEP COMING! THE BULLETS GO RIGHT THROUGH THEM!
THAT ONE.. IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAN WE BURIED AT SEA!
BLAM
BLAM

WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HEADS, SOME OF TOM LEWIS' COURAGE RETURNED AND HE AGREED WITH BOB TO GET THE IDOL'S OTHER EYE AND LEAVE THE ISLAND!

CAN'T YOU HEAR ME, YOU FOOLS! SEND A BOAT! SEND A BOAT!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH, TOM! WE JUST HAVE TO SIT AND WAIT!

THE LENGTHENING SHADOWS BROUGHT PROMISE TERROR, AND TENSION GRADUALLY BECAME TOO MUCH FOR TOM'S FRAYED NERVES..
LET'S RETURN THE RUBIES, BOB! I'M AFRAID OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US IF WE DON'T!
NOTHING'S GOING TO MAKE ME DO THAT! NOTHING!

TOM'S HAND MOVED SWIFTLY...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT?
I WANT THOSE RUBIES RIGHT NOW! IF YOU WON'T PUT THEM BACK, I WILL!
THIS IS ALL YOU'LL GET FROM ME!
POW!
NOW YOU'LL NEVER GET YOUR SHARE! YOU CAN STAY HERE! I'M FINDING A COMFORTABLE SPOT!
NO, BOB! NO... DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE!

BOB DISAPPEARED INTO THE JUNGLE, LEAVING TOM TO FACE THE NIGHT AS HE COWERED WITH HIS BACK TO THE SEA... HE SAW AGAIN THE HORROR OF THE NIGHT BEFORE...
AAAEEEEEE
BOB! BOB!

TOM RACED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SCREAM AND STUMBLED ON THE STILL FORM HANGING IN THE VINES...
BOB'S DEAD! HIS HEAD IS GONE!!
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! OH--NO!
ALMOST DEVOID OF REASON, TOM RACED AT THE NARROWING CIRCLE AS IF TO BREAK THRU..THEN.
BOB! YOU...
HELP ME... PLEASE HELP ME!
TOM WHIRLED AND RUSHED BACK TO THE LIFELESS FIGURE!
I'VE GOT TO GET THE RUBIES! MUST RETURN THEM!
CLASPING THE RUBIES IN ANGUISHING HANDS, TOM PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE, KNOWING THAT THE HORROR WAS CLOSE AT HIS HEELS...
I FOUND IT! I FOUND THE IDOL OF KULA!
I CAN'T LET THEM CATCH UP TO ME! THEY'LL KILL ME AS THEY KILLED BOB!

GET BACK! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GET BACK! I'M GOING TO RETURN THE RUBIES... DON'T YOU SEE?

THERE!

TOM TURNED BACK, HIS HEART BEATING MADLY, HOPING HIS ACTION WOULD BE PROTECTION AGAINST THE VEANGEANCE OF THE HEADS, AND...
TH-THEY'RE GONE! THE CURSE IS ENDED!

HE STUMBLED BACK THROUGH THE JUNGLE OUT TO THE BEACH THERE ANOTHER SURPRISE AWAITED HIM...
THE BOAT! IT'S BACK! MUST'VE FLOATED IN ON THE TIDE!

WHERE IS M'SIEU RONAN? WHY'S HE NOT WITH YOU?
MR RONAN ISN'T COMING BACK, HENRI! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

AND SO THE GHOST HEADS OF KULA WERE AT REST FOR ALL TIME... OR WERE THEY?
I HEAR THERE ARE GREAT RUBIES ON THE ISLAND! MAYBE WE COME BACK AND FIND THEM, EH?
MAYBE!
THE END

WHAT AGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH ? 100 ? 200 ? 300 ? BETTER NOT SET YOUR MARK TOO HIGH TILL YOU READ THE GRUESOME TALE OF...

GROTESQUE

AGGHWH!

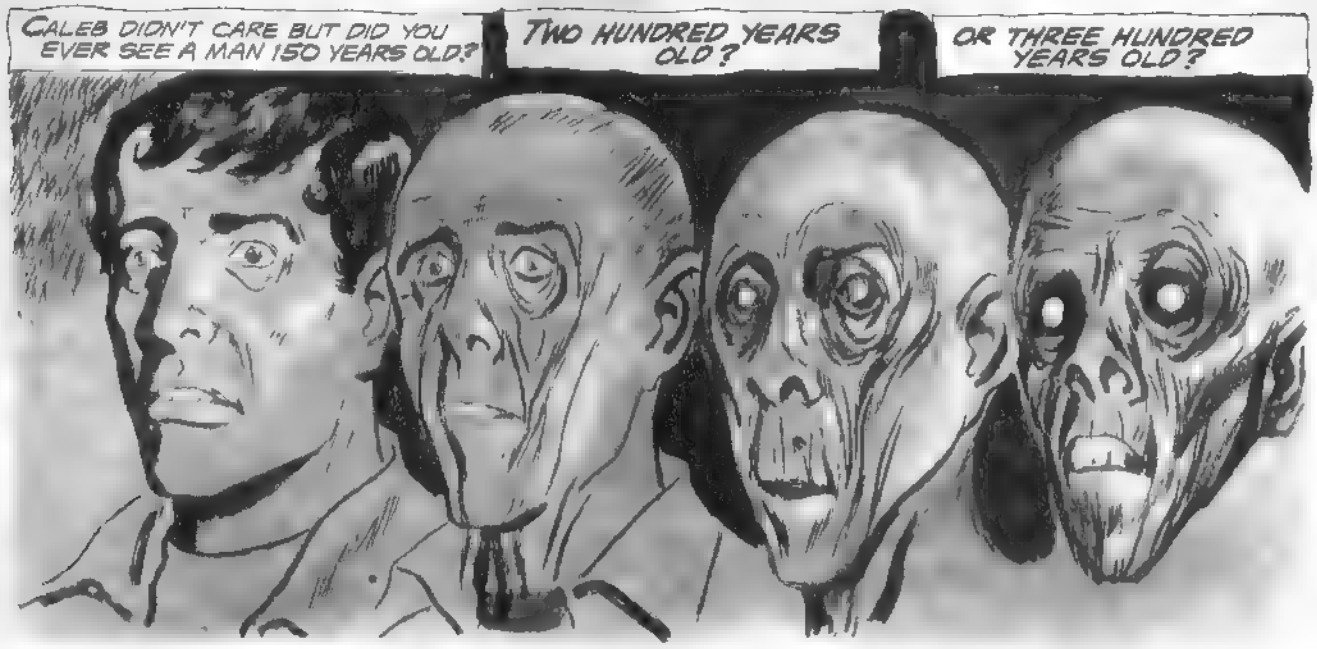
IT'S A HANGING MATTER IF THEY GET ME NOW! BETTER LEAVE FAST!

BUT WHAT'S THIS ? ELIX R OF LIFE ?
ELIXIR OF LIFE
AND I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IF ONE QUAFFS THIS LIQUID HE

"HE WILL LIVE TO BE AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS! AND YET I AM AFRAID TO TRY IT--"
WELL, I'M NOT AFRAID!

WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?

YES, CALEB DRANK DEEP--AND SOME FIFTY YEARS LATER...
HEH! HEH! I LOOK MY AGE-- BUT I FEEL SPRY AS A YOUNKER! WHO CARES WHAT I LOOK LIKE!


CALEB DIDN'T CARE BUT DID YOU EVER SEE A MAN 150 YEARS OLD?
TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD?
OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD?

YES, CALEB WAS A RANK, FOUL THING OF HORROR... AND AS HE PASSED THROUGH THE STREETS...
EEEH!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE HORRIFIED AND DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION...
HE'LL FRIGHTEN SOMEONE TO DEATH ONE OF THESE DAYS -- INFORM THE AUTHORITIES AND HAVE HIM LOCKED UP!

I DON'T WANT TO BE LOCKED UP! I STILL HAVE TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF LIFE AHEAD OF ME!

THE WAX WORKS! I'LL HIDE IN THERE 'TILL -- NO -- WAIT -- I'VE A BETTER IDEA -- A WONDERFUL IDEA...

CHANDLER MAKES THESE WAX FIGURES HIMSELF-- IF I CAN GET HIM TO-- HEH, HEH! I'LL BE SAFE THEN!

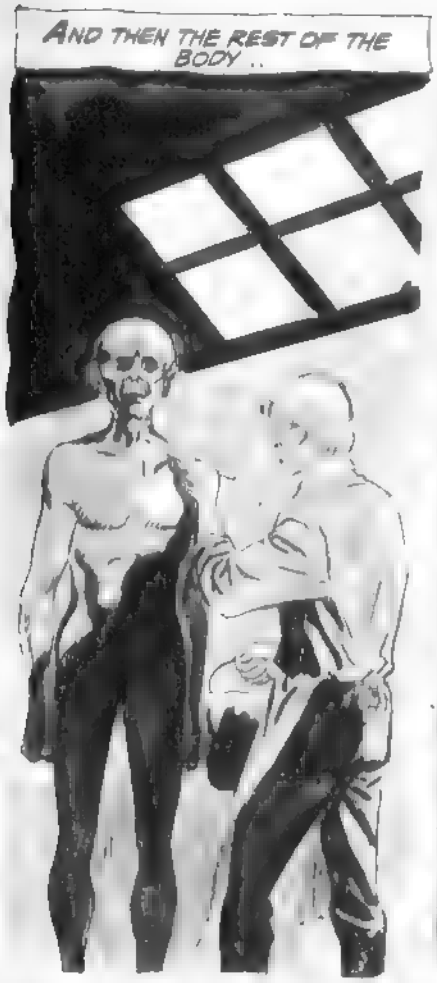
LATER--
AGHH! YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT!

I WANT YOU TO COVER MY MOULDERING FLESH WITH WAX--MAKE ME LOOK YOUNG!
YES--YES-- ANYTHING!

SOON, AS CHANDLER PREPARED THE WAX FOR HIS LOATHSOME TASK--
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT TO LOOK LIKE?
ANYTHING--SO LONG AS THEY DON'T-- WAIT-- DO YOU KNOW STEVEN WINTERS?

YES, OF COURSE-- THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN TOWN! BUT WHY?
YOU'LL MAKE ME LOOK LIKE HIM! EXACTLY LIKE HIM!

FINE! FINE! IT GLISTENS LIKE REAL, HEALTHY FRESH! THEY'LL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

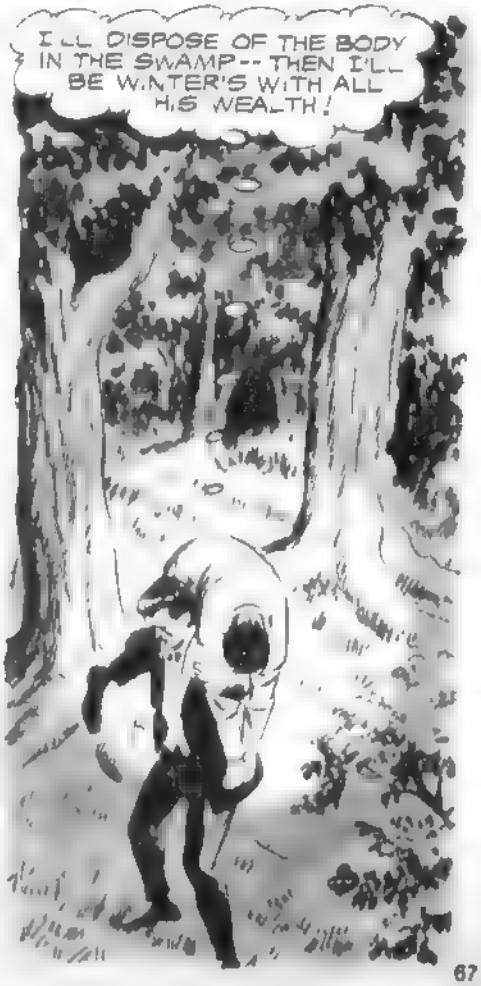

AND THEN THE REST OF THE BODY ..

AND FINALLY--
THERE-- FINISHED!
YES-- EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE DETAIL--

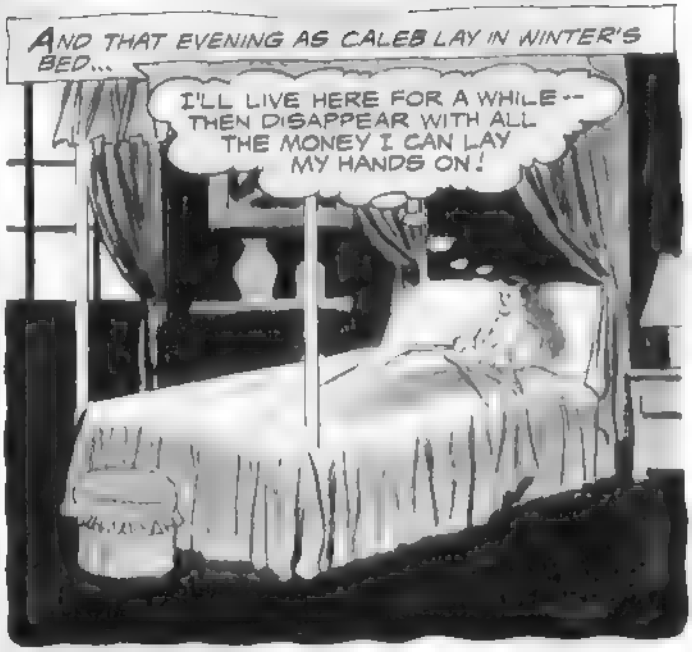
I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE A LIVING SOUL KNOW OF THIS CHANGE!

SOME DAYS LATER--
WINTERS FREQUENTLY PASSES HERE ON LONELY WALKS! I'LL WAIT--I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE!

PRESENTLY, WINTER'S PASSED, AND CALEB'S NEW WAXEN FINGERS REACHED OUT AND CLUTCHED WARM LIVING FLESH!


I'LL DISPOSE OF THE BODY IN THE SWAMP-- THEN I'LL BE WINTER'S WITH ALL HIS WEALTH!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON--
FINE! THEY DIDN'T NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE AT ALL!
HOW PALE THE MASTER LOOKS! I HOPE HE ISN'T ILL!


AND THAT EVENING AS CALEB LAY IN WINTER'S BED...
I'LL LIVE HERE FOR A WHILE -- THEN DISAPPEAR WITH ALL THE MONEY I CAN LAY MY HANDS ON!

CALEB SLEPT WELL THAT NIGHT, AND NEXT MORNING WHILE HE WAS STILL ASLEEP--
STRANGE HABIT OF THE MASTER'S --STARTING EACH DAY WITH A STEAM BATH!
IT MUST MEAN A LOT TO HIM--SINCE HE'S HAD THE MECHANISM SPECIALLY BUILT INSIDE HIS BEDROOM!

THIS HEAT--IT--IT'S HORRIBLE! MELTING THE WAX! MUST STOP IT! MUST GET OUT!

AGHHH! HELP! THE WAX--IT'S HOT--BURNING ME ALIVE! HELP!

AND WHEN THE SERVANTS ENTERED THE ROOM--
THE MASTER--LOOK--AGHHH!
The End

VAMPIRE

MY NAME IS WALTER FARNO AS A WRITER OF SOME RENOWN, I AM ALSO AN INTENSE TRAVELER COME WITH ME AS I TELL YOU MY STORY... I FIRST ARRIVED AT BELNOW IN THE PYRENEES DURING THE SPRING MONTHS. THE TOWN MAYOR GREETED ME WITH GUSTO...

OSCAR FRAGA

AH, MONSIEUR FARNO! WELCOME! WELCOME TO OUR SMALL VILLAGE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND YOUR STAY AN ENJOYABLE ONE!

I'M SURE I WILL, MONSIEUR MAYOR!

HERE YOU! CAREFUL WITH THAT BOX!

IT IS YOURS, MONSIEUR!?

CRASH

UH...YES! YOU SEE SIR, I'M NOT ONLY HERE ON A VACATION, BUT ALSO TO... UH... COLLECT THINGS! I AM AN AVID COLLECTOR! THAT BOX HOLDS MY... COLLECTION!
SO! BIEN! BELNOW HAS EVERYTHING AT YOUR DISPOSAL! NOW FOLLOW ME, MONSIEUR!
BELNOW GREETED ME WITH OPEN ARMS! IT WASN'T OFTEN THAT A FAMOUS WRITER CAME TO VISIT THEM BUT MY PURPOSE WAS NOT FOR A REST. YOU SEE, I HAD ONLY TOLD THE MAYOR HALF THE TRUTH THAT NIGHT AT MY INN, I MET THE VILLAGERS...
YOUNG PAUL IS A HERCULES, IS HE NOT, MONSIEUR?
THAT HE IS, MONSIEUR!
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT, MY FRIENDS! I MUST GO BACK TO MY BLACKSMITH'S SHOP TO WORK! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
GOOD NIGHT, PAUL!
OH, PAUL! MAY I WALK ALONG WITH YOU? I'D LIKE A BIT OF FRESH AIR!
COME ALONG, MONSIEUR FARNO! IT IS A PRIVELEGE!
WE WALKED ALONG TOGETHER...THEN WHEN THE FOREST BECAME DENSE...AND THE FULL MOON REACHED ITS PEAK... I STOPPED...
THEN... OF COURSE... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! THERE WAS NO USE DENYING THE INEVITABLE...
WHY DO YOU STOP, MONSIEUR? ARE YOU TIRED?
NO, PAUL, NOT TIRED! JUST HUNGRY!
MONSIEUR... Y..YOU'RE CH.. CHANGING! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T, PAUL! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M FAMISHED!

HE MADE A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ELUDE ME, BUT OF COURSE I WAS SO MUCH STRONGER! EVEN THIS GIANT COULDN'T STOP A VAMPIRE!
WHAT WARM SWEET BLOOD, PAUL! IT HEARTENS ME GREATLY! HA! HA!

AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON, I MET MAYOR LAFARGE IN THE INN-SALOON. HE WAS VERY DISTURBED.
PAUL HAS BEEN KILLED, MONSIEUR FARNO! YOU WERE SEEN WITH HIM LAST..
BUT I LEFT HIM IMMEDIATELY! HOW COULD SUCH A YOUNG GIANT BE OVERPOWERED AND KILLED?

THAT ALSO PUZZLES ME! AND THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN ABSOLVED OF ALL GUILT! FORGIVE ME, BUT WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE! OH, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER DESIRE!
CHARMED!

IT IS A HORRIBLE THING, IS IT NOT, MONSIEUR? I KNEW PAUL VERY WELL! WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING? HIS NECK WAS... IT WAS AWFUL!
PLEASE DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU OVERWROUGHT, DESIRÉ! A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU NEEDS LAUGHTER AND GAIETY!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED I CULTIVATED THIS WONDERFUL GIRL'S FRIENDSHIP. PICNICS, DAYS ON THE BEACH, DANCING!

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, VAMPIRES ARE LIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE... THAT IS TO SAY, THEY CAN GO OUT DURING THE DAYTIME. BUT, OF COURSE, THEY DO HAVE ABNORMAL APPETITES, AND MINE WAS GROWING AGAIN!
PARDON ME, OLD MAN! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE ROAD TO BELNOW IS? I SEEM TO BE LOST!
IT IS NOT FAR FROM HERE! YOU JUST..

YOU GO THREE KILOMETERS TO RUE CHAMPLAIN T-THEN...Y-YOU..
YES? GO ON! SOMETHING WRONG, OLD MAN?
HA! HA! HA!
MONSIEUR! YOUR HANDS! YAAAAHHHHH!
I WENT HOME, MY GAIETY BUBBLING OVER THE NEXT MORNING OVER THE BREAKFAST TABLE.
I JUST HEARD THE NEWS! THIS IS TERRIBLE! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!
IT WAS MY GRANDPERE, I LOVED HIM, (SOB)!
HER GRANDFATHER? NO! IT COULD NOT BE I EXCLAIMED TO MYSELF, BUT THE FACTS WERE NOT TO BE DENIED! AND DESIRE COULD BE NEXT!
WHAT SHALL I DO? I DON'T WANT TO KILL DESIRE AS WELL! BUT MY OVERWHELMING DESIRE FOR BLOOD LEAVES ME WEAK!
NEVERTHELESS I HAD TO KEEP UP A PRETENSE. I ORGANIZED A SEARCH PARTY TO CAPTURE THE "MURDERER" AND THE POOR SIMPLE PEASANTS FELL ALONG WITH MY PLANS
YES! WE WILL HANG HIM ONCE WE CATCH HIM!
COME! WE MUST FIND THIS MAN! HE IS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE FOREST!
WE'LL SPLIT UP SO THAT WE MAY SEARCH MORE EASILY! I WILL TAKE THE CENTER ROUTE!
BIEN! WE WILL GO TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF YOU, MONSIEUR!

MOMENTS LATER
LOOK THERE, MONSIEUR LE MAYOR, QUICKLY!
EH? WHERE?
OH...I'M AFRAID YOU MISSED HIM! HE WAS A LITTLE TOO FAST FOR YOU!
NONSENSE! I THINK I SEE SOMETHING
AIEEEEEEEEEEE!
THE ONLY THING YOU SAW WAS YOUR IMAGINATION! NOW YOU SHALL REALLY SEE HIM! HA! HA!
I ATTENDED TO MY BUSINESS QUICKLY. THEN WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, I TORE MY CLOTHES, SLASHED MY FACE, AND RAN BACK TOWARD THE MAIN BODY!
HELP! HELP! THE MAYOR! HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY...BY A VAMPIRE! I BARELY ESCAPED!
IT'S MONSIEUR FARNO! SACRE BLEU! WE MUST FIND THE CREATURE!
OH- WALTER- WALTER MY DARLING! YOU. YOU ARE ALIVE! I HEARD THE MENS GHOUTS! FATHER IS... IS... ?
YES, DEAR! THIS IS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE! WE MUST LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLACE!
I SHOULD HAVE EXULTED IN MY CUNNING, BUT I WAS TORN BY THE BITTER ANGUISH OF MY EVIL! DESIRE NOW MEANT MORE TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF! BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OF THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD!
I-I WOULD RATHER KILL MYSELF FIRST! I'LL FIND ANOTHER VICTIM! YES,... THAT'S IT!

THAT NIGHT I STALKED A PRETTY YOUNG THING WHO LIVED NEAR THE VILLAGE...TO BLOT OUT THE TEMPTATION OF KILLING DESIRÉ!
DON'T BE ALARMED, MY CHILD! IT WILL HURT BUT A MOMENT!
BUT THAT NIGHT I WAS CARELESS!
DID HE SEE ME? I WONDER!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
BEG PARDON, SIR! BUT DESIRÉ LAFARGE IS DOWNSTAIRS SHE GAVE ME THIS NOTE!
YOU MAY LEAVE! THANK YOU!
I SAW THE SNEER FRIGHT IN THE MORTALS EYES! THEN I KNEW I HAD BEEN FOUND OUT! I OPENED DESIRÉ'S NOTE!
Y-YES!
"DARLING, TAKE ME AWAY...I LOVE YOU! WE CAN BE MARRIED AND BE TOGETHER ALWAYS! I WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER. DESIRÉ"
SWEET DESIRÉ! I SHALL NEVER HARM YOU!
THEN I KNEW WHAT TO DO! THE INN-PORTER WOULD BE SUMMONING HIS FELLOW BUMPKINS...AND MY SWEETHEART WAS DOWN BELOW SO I RUSHED TO THE WINDOW IMMEDIATELY.
DESIRÉ COME UP QUICKLY! I'VE CAUGHT THE VAMPIRE! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY TAKE A LARGE WOODEN STAKE FROM THE STOVE. YOU MUST KILL IT AS IT LIES IN ITS COFFIN!
Y-YES.
I EXERTED EVERY OUNCE OF MY HYPNOTIC POWER, FOR SHE WOULD NEVER DO IT OF HER OWN FREE WILL!...REALIZING WHO AND WHAT I WAS BEFORE SHE COULD KILL ME. I HEARD THE DOOR OPEN...
QUICKLY! YOU MUST PLUNGE IT DOWN AS HARD AS YOU CAN!
YES
DESIRÉ, I SHALL LOVE YOU ALWAYS!
SOMEDAY SHE WILL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY SHE WILL PITY ME!
THE END

HORROR WITH FANGS
THE AFTER-MIDNIGHT STILLNESS OF A DIM-LIT STREET IN NEW YORK... IS SHREDDED BY SLOW.. SLITHERING FOOTSTEPS...
MY HEAD! IT'S SPLITTING OPEN! IF I DON'T GET SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME SOON, I'LL BE A GONER!
WHAT A BREAK... A GROCERY STILL OPEN! MUST BE TAKING INVENTORY OR SOMETHING...
GROCERY STORE

HIYA! WANNA BE A FRIEND? I'M IN A BAD WAY...(HICCUP)... GIVE ME SOMETHING FOR WHAT'S AILING ME!
BE GLAD TO, SIR. YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE... SIT DOWN ON THAT BOX FOR A SECOND
POOR FELLOW.. I KNOW JUST HOW HE FEELS...
LOOKS LIKE BEET SOUP.. GUESS THE OLD DUFFER KNOWS WHAT HE'S GIVING ME.
THANKS. TRUST ME 'TIL TOMORROW I LIVE JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
DON'T MENTION IT, SIR. YOU'LL BE BACK FOR MORE! I KNOW YOU WILL.
YOU'LL SEE, SIR. YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN WHEN YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING.
I SURE HOPE SO!
HOME SWEET HOME! I BETTER SIT DOWN FOR A SECOND. THAT ELEVATOR RIDE LEFT MY HEAD SPINNING LIKE A TOP..
BOY, I REALLY HAVE A LOAD ON! I BETTER DRINK THIS STUFF AS SOON AS I GET UPSTAIRS!

WHEW I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS MASK ALL THE TIME THAT'S HOW STINKO I AM! THAT SURE WAS A LULU OF A MASQUERADE BALL!
HMM THE STUFF THE GROCER GAVE ME MAYBE THAT'LL HELP I'LL TAKE IT INTO THE KITCHEN OPEN IT..
COVER SURE IS ON TIGHT. WHERE'S THE OPENER IT'S SLIPPING!
JUST MY LUCK. WHAT THE. THAT'S NOT BEET SOUP!
CRASH!
IT.. IT LOOKS LIKE. BLOOD!
SOBERED, THE YOUNG MAN RUSHES INTO THE STREET
THAT POOR LITTLE GROCER COULD GET INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE! I'LL TELL HIM TO CHECK THE REST OF THE STOCK!
GROCERY STORE

THAT JAR YOU GAVE ME... IT WAS FILLED WITH BLOOD!
IT WAS...?
YEAH! LET'S CHECK THE OTHER JARS, THEN WE'LL GO TOGETHER AND REPORT IT TO THE POLICE!
I'M SO SORRY!
...THIS NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED...
...I MADE A DREADFUL MISTAKE...
YOU SEE... WHEN YOU CAME IN DRESSED THAT WAY...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF US!
AAAAGGGHH!
Fernand
THE END

FOLLOW US INTO THE HEART OF THE BLAZING DESERT WHERE EVIL LURKS IN THE BROODING SILENCE...AND

THE MUMMIES!

STUMBLING THROUGH THE ENDLESS WASTES OF THE EGYPTIAN DESERT, THREE ARCHEOLOGISTS COME UPON A STARTLING DISCOVERY...

I'D LIKE TO STUDY THESE SPECIMENS CAREFULLY!
SO WOULD I, WADE!

That EVENING...
WHERE DID WADE GO? I TOLD HIM NOT TO WANDER

A WILD SHRIEK OF AGONY BRINGS FLASK AND HATCHER TO A SIGHT OF UNHOLY HORROR!
UGH-HH! THE ANTS ARE FEEDING ON HIS BODY!
FLASK! HATCHER! HELP ME! ARGGH-H!

WE CAN'T HELP HIM NOW!
NO! THEY MIGHT GET US, TOO!

WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM, COULD WE?
THERE WAS NO POINT IN SACRIFICING OURSELVES!

WE'LL LEAVE HIM HERE--AND BURY HIM IN THE MORNING!
THESE MUMMIES GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

LATE THAT EVE, DREADFUL FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE MUMMY CASES...
LOOK!

MY PEOPLE, OUR TOMB HAS BEEN DEFILED BY INTRUDERS! THEY HAVE LEFT A DECAYING CORPSE ON OUR ALTAR! THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!

BUT FIRST, WE MUST REMOVE THE BODY FROM THE ALTAR!
YES! TAKE IT AWAY!

SUDDENLY, A LOW MOAN ISSUES FROM THE GRUESOME IMAGE ON THE ALTAR...
AH-H! IT'S MOVING! THE POWER OF THE ANCIENT GODS HAVE RESTORED LIFE TO HIM!
...THEN... HE MUST BE ONE OF THE GODS! LET US BOW BEFORE HIM!!

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH, OH SACRED BEING?
I SHALL HELP YOU DESTROY THE INTRUDERS! THEY WATCHED THE ANTS DEVOUR ME... AND DID NOTHING!

WITHIN THE CAMP, THE MEN WERE UNABLE TO SLEEP...
WHAT A STRANGE NIGHT, HATCHER!
I'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN WE'RE OUT OF THIS PLACE!

YOU KNOW, I'D SWEAR THERE WAS SOMETHING...
LOOKS LIKE A BAND OF TRAVELLERS! NOW WHO WOULD BE--

LED BY THEIR REPULSIVE "GOD", THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD APPEAR OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
IT'S... IT'S WADE!! BUT HOW COULD HE BE--
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FLASK!

YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE YOUR DOOM! YOU WATCHED ME DIE, AND NOW THE CURSE OF A DEFILED TOMB SHALL BRING YOU DEATH!
WADE! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO LET YOU D.E! WE WERE FRIGHTENED AND--

NO! NO! LET US GO!
YAAGH-H!
TAKE THEM!

ON THE WILD PANIC OF THEIR FLIGHT, THE MEN STUMBLE BLINDLY ABOUT...
YAAI-EEE!!
DON'T TOUCH ME! LET ME GO!

SHALL I HELP YOU, HATCHER?? HA! HA! HA!
THE ANTS! THE ANTS! ARRGGH-H!

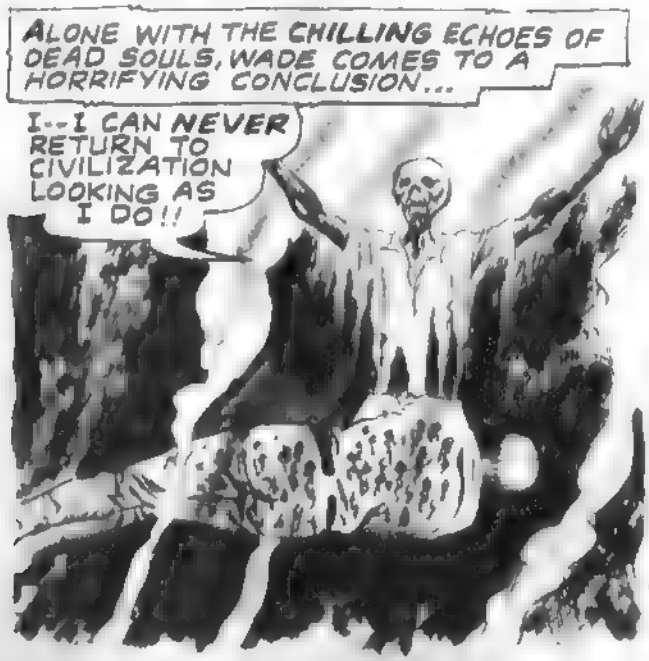
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME??
I HAVE HAD MY REVENGE! HE IS YOURS!

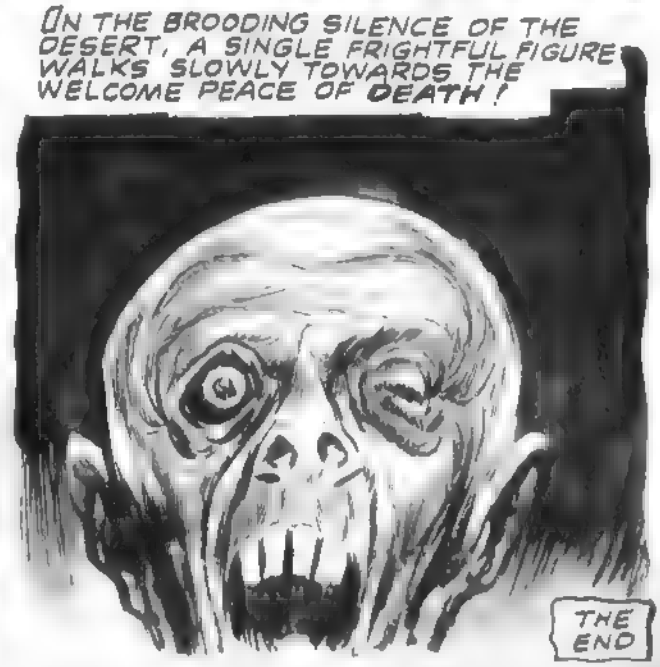
YOU CAN'T BURY ME ALIVE...IN THERE! NO! YAHH!

M-M-M-AARGH!!
YOU CAN OPEN IT... NOW!

ONE MOMENT OF UNBEARABLE TERROR--A SHRIEK OF AGONY...AND THEN FLASK'S SEVERED BODY HURTLES FORTH FROM THE CASE!
AN IRON MAIDEN! HA! HA!

OUR TOMB IS DEFILED NO LONGER! WE MUST RETURN TO THE BEYOND... TO DWELL IN ETERNITY!


ALONE WITH THE CHILLING ECHOES OF DEAD SOULS, WADE COMES TO A HORRIFYING CONCLUSION...
I--I CAN NEVER RETURN TO CIVILIZATION LOOKING AS I DO!!


ON THE BROODING SILENCE OF THE DESERT, A SINGLE FRIGHTFUL FIGURE WALKS SLOWLY TOWARDS THE WELCOME PEACE OF DEATH!
THE END

PRIESTESS of DEATH

MIGHTY RU, MASTER OF ALL NATURE, HEAR THE VOICE OF EENA, HIGH PRIESTESS OF YOUR TEMPLE!
LISTEN TO THAT VOICE! IT'S WEIRD MUSICAL STRANGELY BEAUTIFUL!
LET THE STRANGERS BE WARNED OF THE SACREDNESS OF THE TEMPLE OF RU!
SACRED TEMPLE, MY FOOT! SOME EXPLORER HAS WIRED THE PLACE FOR SOUND!
BEWARE OF THE WRATH OF RU!
A THUNDERCLOUD, BUT NOT LIKE ANY I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE A HICK AT A CARNIVAL SHOW?
M. BARNES
CONRAD! I CAN'T STAND!
IT IS THE WARNING OF RU! DEPART WHILE THERE IS YET TIME!
AN EARTHQUAKE! WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
A MINUTE LATER...
REAL EARTHQUAKE OR NOT, THE BODILESS VOICE FROM THE TEMPLE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
CONRAD, DON'T EVER DREAM I'LL PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE TO A NATIVE PIN UP GIRL WHO HAUNTS AN OLD TEMPLE!

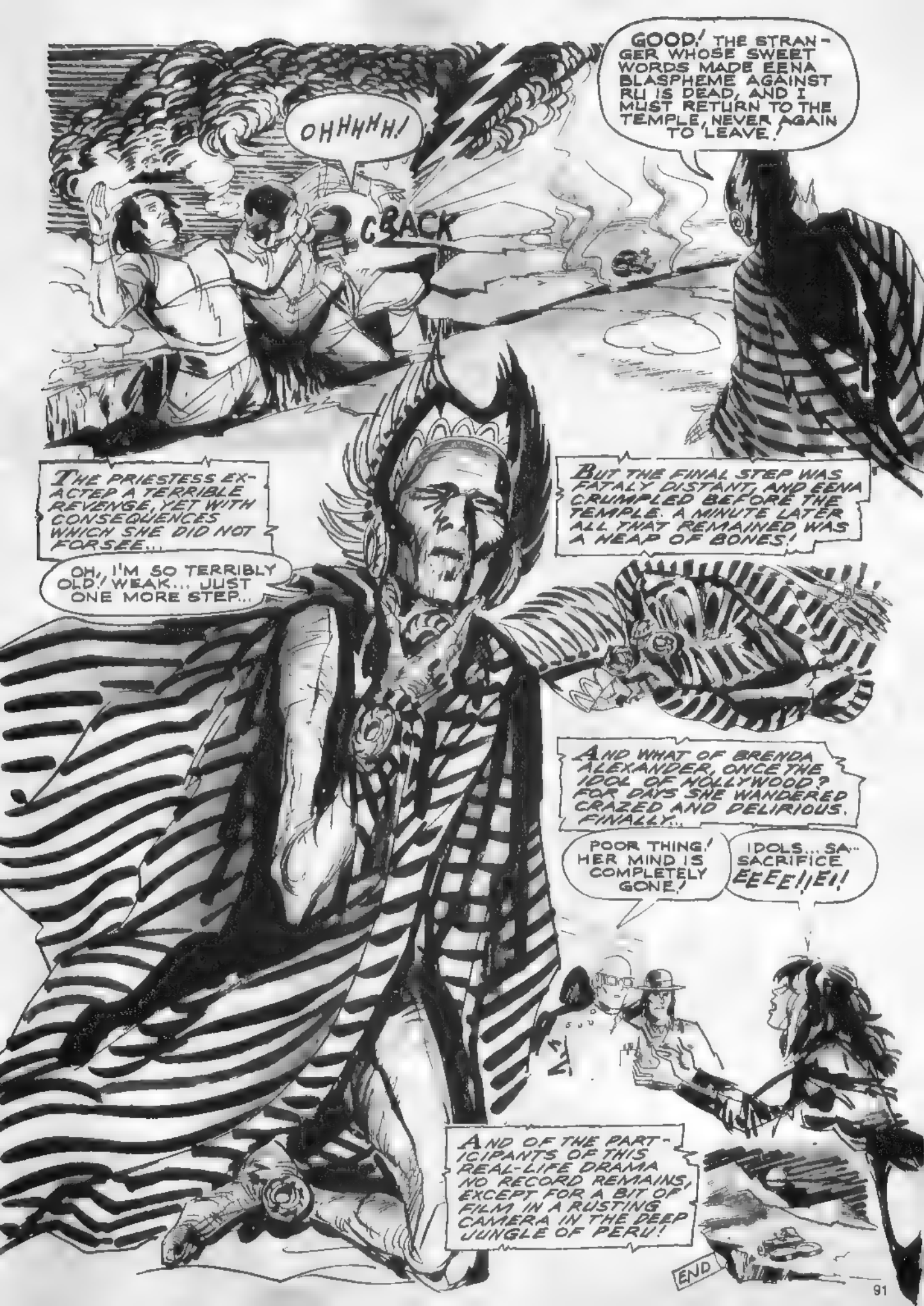
THE SUN SET, DARKNESS COVERED THE ANCIENT RUINS AND THE STEALTHY FORM OF CONRAD SMITH, HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR WITH A DANGEROUS TASTE FOR CINEMA REALISM.
I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL! THE ACOUSTICS OF THIS OLD ROCK PILE ARE SO GOOD THAT A CAT'S MEOW WOULD SOUND LIKE AN ELEPHANTS TRUMPET!
TWISTING THE IDOL'S HEAD OPENS THE DOOR I WONDER WHAT THE PENALTY FOR INCA HOUSEBREAKING WAS?
ONCE THROUGH THE PORTAL THAT HAD HIDDEN UNSCRUTABLE SECRETS FOR MANY CENTURIES!...
A GREAT IDOL! MUMMIES! DOZENS OF OLD STIFFS PRESERVED IN SHROUDS. WHAT A SETTING!
EENA, HIGH PRIESTESS OF RU SPEAKS ONCE AGAIN THE STRANGERS FROM FAR AWAY MUST NOT DISTURB THE SLEEP OF THE HONORED INCA DEAD!
THE STRANGER DOES NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT EENA!
FOR YEARS BEYOND MEMORY I HAVE SUNG A SONG THAT THE ETERNAL REST OF THE INCA DEAD MAY BE PEACEFUL!
THE VOICE AGAIN, LIKE A SYMPHONY ON A WARM SPRING DAY!
ENCHANTING! DAZZLING! PRIESTESS, YOUR SONG SHOULD NOT BE FOR THE DEAD ALONE! THE WHOLE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND EARTH SHOULD KNOW YOUR BEAUTY!
I WONDER IF MIGHTY RU WOULD BE ANGERED THAT YOU PRAISE MY SACRED SONG?
THE CHARMS OF THE HIGH PRIESTESS WOULD TURN THE THUNDER OF RU TO A GENTLE MURMER... HIS SCOWL TO A FOND SMILE!

IT HAS BEEN VERY LONELY IN THE TEMPLE FOR 400 YEARS! TO-NIGHT, WOULD YOU COME TO BE ENTERTAINED BY MY ANCESTORS IN THE SPLENDID STYLE OF FORGOTTEN TIMES!
WHAT A SENSA-TION FOR HOLLYWOOD! SHE'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
RETURN AT MIDNIGHT FOR A FEAST THAT WILL LAST UNTIL DAWN! THE STRANGER HAS FOUND FAVOR IN MY EYES!
I SHALL COME WITH MORE PLEASURE THAN THE PRIESTESS KNOWS!
WITH A CAMERA AND SOUND MAN!
BUT AN INSTANT LATER...
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE HAM, CONRAD!
UH .. WHY, BRENDA! I WAS ON MY WAY TO ASK YOU TO STROLL IN THE MOONLIGHT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO... YOU'RE GOING TO USE THAT VAMP IN THE PICTURE IN-STEAD OF ME!
PLEASE, BRENDA, EENA MIGHT HEAR!
I SUPPOSE YOU TOLD HER SHE WAS THE MOST BEAUT-IFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD.. THE SAME THINGS YOU TOLD ME FOR YOUR OWN SELFISH NEEDS!
YOU ONCE SAID MY VOICE HAS THE SATIN TONE OF A GYPSY FIDDLE!
LISTEN, BRENDA. IT WAS JUST A GAG TO GET SOME PIC-TURES OF THE INSIDE OF THE TEMPLE!
PLEASE, DARLING! YOUR VOICE SOUNDS LIKE A FOGHORN!

FINALLY SMITH CALMED THE MOVIE STAR. HOURS LATER, JUST MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT...
I FOUND A PLACE IN THE REAR OF THE TEMPLE WHERE WE CAN ENTER!
SHOOT ME WITH THE PRIESTESS! WE'LL WONDER ABOUT BRENDA AGAIN WHEN SHE SLEEPS OFF THE PILLS!
THE BOSS IS GOING TO STALL EENA BY THE DOOR UNTIL WE CAN GET SET UP!
I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF BRENDA WAKES UP AND COMES HERE LOOKING FOR US!
MEANWHILE...
HOLLYWOOD IS THE JEWELED CITY OF THE WORLD, AND THERE, EENA, YOU WOULD REIGN SUPREME... A QUEEN, OVER QUEENS!
THE WRATH OF RU IS TERRIBLE FOR THOSE WHO LIE TO HIS PRIESTESS!
IT IS A SACRED TRUTH! I COULD MAKE YOUR LOVELINESS AN ETERNAL DELIGHT AMONG THE LIVING!
I'M AFRAID EENA IS FAR TOO OLD EVER TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE OF RU!
OLD? EENA, BY COMPARISON OUR OWN QUEENS OF FILMDOM ARE TOTTERING HAGS!
THE STRANGER SAYS MANY FLATTERING THINGS, BUT HE MUST NOT BE UNFAIR TO HIS OWN QUEEN!
BUT AS EENA STEPPED OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE...
TONIGHT, AS I HAVE PROMISED, THERE IS TO BE A GREAT FEAST, AND NONE OF THE STRANGERS MUST BE EXCLUDED! WELCOME TO THE TEMPLE OF RU!
BRENDA!

IT IS NOT PROPER THAT THE WOMAN YOU LOVE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED AT THE GREAT FEAST OF RU,
BRENDA, FOR HEAVENS SAKE, WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
TO THINK THAT I WAS JEALOUS OF THAT!
IT IS TRUE! THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR THE MOVIE QUEEN TO BE JEALOUS!
ER, SURE! THAT'S WHAT I WAS TELLING YOU, BRENDA!
INEXPLICABLY, THE PRIESTESS HAD LOST THE BLOOM OF YOUTH, BUT ONCE AGAIN ON THE INSIDE OF THE TEMPLE
YOU SEE, I AM REALLY 400 YEARS OLD, AND ONLY HERE INSIDE THE TEMPLE WALLS AM I YOUNG IN APPEARANCE!
THE PRIESTESS RAISED HER BEAUTIFUL VOICE IN A STRANGE INCANTATION..
MIGHTY RU, RESTORE LIFE TO THE HONORED DEAD! ROUSE THEIR SOULS TO FRENZY! FOR, BY MY MOMENTS WEAKNESS, I DEFILED THEE AND WAS TEMPTED BY A MORTAL MAN!
SHEDDING CENTURY-OLD SHROUDS, THE TEMPLE MUMMIES SPRANG INTO LIFE! THE TEMPLE RANG WITH DREADFUL REVELRY!
THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES ARE SERVING A BANQUET!
BUT NOT FOR US! THIS IS A BLOOD SACRIFICE TO RU!

THEY'RE APPEASING HIS ANGER!
SMITH! HELP!
HELP!
IT'S JOE! HE'S DONE FOR! AND WE'RE NEXT!
WE CAN MAKE THE DOOR OF THE TEMPLE!
NOBODY'D BELIEVE THIS IF WE DON'T HAVE A CAMERA RECORD!
RU, GOD OF LIGHTNING, SHAKER OF EARTH, THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE THE JUSTICE OF THE TEMPLE!
NO! OHHHH!
MIGHTY RU, THE MEN... QUICK!
IF WE CAN MAKE THE COPTER, WE'LL BE SAFE... FILM AND ALL!
CRACK!


OHHHHH!
CRACK
GOOD! THE STRANGER WHOSE SWEET WORDS MADE EENA BLASPHEME AGAINST RU IS DEAD, AND I MUST RETURN TO THE TEMPLE, NEVER AGAIN TO LEAVE!
THE PRIESTESS EXACTED A TERRIBLE REVENGE, YET WITH CONSEQUENCES WHICH SHE DID NOT FORSEE...
OH, I'M SO TERRIBLY OLD! WEAK... JUST ONE MORE STEP...
BUT THE FINAL STEP WAS FATALY DISTANT, AND EENA CRUMPLED BEFORE THE TEMPLE. A MINUTE LATER ALL THAT REMAINED WAS A HEAP OF BONES!
AND WHAT OF BRENDA ALEXANDER, ONCE THE IDOL OF HOLLYWOOD? FOR DAYS SHE WANDERED CRAZED AND DELIRIOUS. FINALLY...
POOR THING! HER MIND IS COMPLETELY GONE!
IDOLS... SA-SACRIFICE EEEEE!!E!!
AND OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS REAL-LIFE DRAMA NO RECORD REMAINS, EXCEPT FOR A BIT OF FILM IN A RUSTING CAMERA IN THE DEEP JUNGLE OF PERU!
END

CATS OF DOOM

WHY CAN'T WE GET OFF THE TRAIN HERE?
THE EVIL LYNX MAN COULD MAKE YOU HIS VICTIM! TONIGHT'S HIS LAST CHANCE TO CAPTURE A SACRIFICE FOR THE CAT GODS!
I MUST GO, SENORITA, TO WARN THE OTHER PASSENGERS!
WHAT KIND OF SUPERSTITIOUS HUMBUG WAS HE PRATTLING ABOUT? THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! I'VE GOT TO TAKE A PEEK AND OOOH! A CAT!
WHY THAT NERVY ANIMAL GRABBED MY PURSE! COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!
THIS PLACE IS SO EMPTY AND LONELY! ;OH!;
WHERE DID THAT CAT GO? I MUST GET THAT PURSE! IT HAS ALL MY MONEY AND MY VISA!
ALLOW ME, SENORITA! I WITNESSED THE THIEVERY AND SNATCHED THE PRIZE FROM THE CULPRIT AS HE RAN PAST!
AS RUTH EXPRESSED HER THANKS, SHE DID NOT NOTICE THAT THE TRAIN HAD BEGUN TO LEAVE, UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!
OH, I'VE MISSED IT! NOW I'M STRANDED HERE!
PERHAPS TRAPPED WOULD BE A BETTER WORD, SENORITA!

AND SO, AFTER A COMFORTABLE NIGHT AT MY BR... INN, YOU CAN CATCH THE MORNING TRAIN!
I SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE! WHY IS NO ONE ABOUT, AND THOSE HOUSES ALL BOARDED UP? IS IT THAT LYNX MAN STORY?
EEK! THAT HORRIBLE SHADOW SHOWS A MAN HANGING FROM THE GALLOWS!
I- UH- SEE NO-THING! IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION! LET US HURRY!
WHAT IS THAT SUPERSTITIOUS LEGEND ALL ABOUT?
THERE WAS A MAN NAMED VELOZ, WHOSE PET MOUNTAIN LYNX GREW VICIOUS AND KILLED A CHILD! ANGRY VILLAGERS SENTENCED IT TO BE KILLED, BUT VELOZ SET IT FREE AND THE MOB TURNED ON VELOZ!
I- I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! THE GALLOWS IS EMPTY! YET I'D SWEAR THAT SHADOW SHOWED A CORPSE!
STRANGE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HANGED THIS MAN VELOZ!
RUTH WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE WITH THE MAN WHO HAD BEFRIENDED HER AS HE RELATED THE TERRIFYING LYNX-MAN LEGEND...
VELOZ'S CORPSE HAS DISAPPEARED SINCE THE HANGING LAST NIGHT!
A BAD SIGN! IT MEANS HE'S BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CAT GODS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN NINE LIVES, HEAVEN HAVE MERCY ON OUR VILLAGE NOW!

ONE YEAR LATER A VILLAGER WAS MISSED. THEY LATER LEARNED HIS FATE FROM A HORROR STRICKEN SHEPHERD WHO HAD WITNESSED IT!
AIEEE! A MAN BEING SACRIFICED TO THE CAT GODS!
HOW HORRIBLE! CERTAINLY THERE CAN BE NO BASIS IN FACT FOR SUCH A MACABRE TALE?
WHO KNOWS! ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, ONCE A YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HANGING THE LYNX-MAN MUST CAPTURE ANOTHER SACRIFICIAL VICTIM OR LOSE ONE OF HIS NINE LIVES!
I LEFT MY CART HERE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN!
A CART DRAWN BY... WHY, THEY'RE MOUNTAIN LYNX! ARE... ARE THEY SAFE?
THAT'S WHAT THE TRAIN CONDUCTOR MEANT! IF HE FAILS TO GET A VICTIM TONIGHT, HE LOSES THE LAST OF HIS NINE LIVES!
AS SAFE AS I AM, SENORITA! BUT LISTEN TO THE REST OF THE LEGEND! FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW THE LYNX-MAN HAS HAD NO VICTIMS! AFTER THAT FIRST YEAR THE VILLAGERS LOCKED THEMSELVES IN!
YES! YOU SEE HOW DESPERATE HE'D BE TONIGHT! WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME SO STRANGELY, SENORITA? DO NOT FEAR! OUR DESTINATION IS AROUND THE NEXT TURN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IN A WILD MOUNTAIN CANYON...
IS... IS THIS THE INN... THESE RUINS? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, SENOR!
THE NAME IS VELOZ, GOLDEN-HAIRED ONE! AND THIS IS MY HOME! COME, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TEMPLE OF THE CAT GODS!
VELOZ? YOU ARE VELOZ, THE LYNX-MAN!
YES! IT WAS I IN CAT FORM WHO LURED YOU FROM THE TRAIN BY STEALING YOUR PURSE!
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH! MAYBE THE NAILFILE IN MY PURSE WILL HELP!
THE NAILFILE SUNK RIGHT INTO ITS THROAT! BUT IT WASN'T HURT-- IT DIDN'T EVEN BLEED!
THEN THE LEGEND IS TRUE, AND I AM TO BECOME YOUR VICTIM!
MY PEOPLE WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE! THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT!
GET AWAY FROM ME! I--I'LL KILL YOU ANYHOW!
I'M AFRAID NOT-- AT LEAST NOT BY ORDINARY MEANS! COME! I MUST TAKE YOU TO THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR!
RUTH WAS THEN BOUND HELPLESSLY!
WHY MUST ONE SO BEAUTIFUL BE SACRIFICED? BUT THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT, OR THE CAT PEOPLE ARE DOOMED!

THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE MUST BE BRIGHT AND HOT TONIGHT, CELEBRATING OUR FIRST VICTIM IN EIGHT YEARS!
OOOOH! PLEASE SPARE ME!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE NO ZEST FOR THESE RITES TONIGHT! SHE IS SO YOUNG, SO LOVELY! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE ELSE BEING SACRIFICED!...PERHAPS THERE CAN BE!
MOST OF YOU HAVE MATES! I, THE LYNX-MAN WILL HAVE THIS ONE, AND GET ANOTHER TO BE SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!
STOP THE CEREMONY AND LISTEN, MY PEOPLE! I HAVE DECIDED ON A CHANGE!
YOU HEARD! I'VE BEEN LONESOME ALL THESE YEARS AND TONIGHT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU! THERE IS STILL A COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL MIDNIGHT! AGREE TO MY PLAN AND YOU'LL BE SPARED!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE! YOU'LL LURE A NEW VICTIM! THEY'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY CAT-FORMS, BUT YOU WON'T BE SUSPECTED! UPON MARRIAGE TO ME, YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF US!
GOOD!
I-I DON'T KNOW! THE HEAT--- BEGINNING TO SEAR ME! I--OOOHH! YES, YES! I'LL AGREE TO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL ONLY FREE ME!
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

HURRY! THE CATS SEEM AGAINST YOUR PLAN!
BACK, YOU FOOLISH CREATURES! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY DECISION? I'M HALF MAN AND WISER THAN YOU! I'VE SWORN WE'LL GET ANOTHER VICTIM! BACK!
GRRRR

I'M FREE! NOW IF ONLY I CAN GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE UNHOLY PLACE WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING!
GRRRRRAARGGG
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO HIM NOW
STOP! HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD? WAIT! DON'T ATTACK! WE'LL SACRIFICE THE GIRL! ARGHH!

LOOKING BACK FOR ONE LAST SPINE CHILLING MOMENT, RUTH SAW THAT VELOZ, THE LYNX MAN HAD BEEN SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!

THERE'S VELOZ'S CART! BUT THE LYNX THAT ONCE DREW IT ARE NOW NOTHING BUT BONES!
A FEW HOURS LATER AS DAWN BROKE...
THIS IS THE MORNING OF GREAT REJOICING, SENORITA! COME TO THE SQUARE AND SEE WHY!
THE END OF THE LYNX-MAN VELOZ! BACK WHERE HE BELONGS, WHERE HIS NATURAL LIFE ENDED NINE YEARS AGO!
IT IS HE, ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I'M LOST! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE! OOOH! CAT SHADOWS ACROSS THE MOON!
BACK IN THE VILLAGE AT LAST! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
LATER ON THE MORNING TRAIN...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS NONE OF US UNDERSTAND, HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, SENORITA! IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER RETURN!
IT'S ALL SO STRANGE! WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THEM OF THIS WEIRD ADVENTURE? THANK GOODNESS I'M LEAVING THIS GHASTLY TOWN AT LAST!
THE END

IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN AN ANIMAL BECAUSE IT WAS ONCE A MAN BUT IT'S ALIVE AND COLD AND HUNGRY--- AND COMPLETELY WITHOUT A SOUL!

THE FLESH RIPPER

1:45 A.M THE DISCOVERY!
THESE ARE THE NEW ARRIVALS, KLING! THEY'RE NOT A NOISY BUNCH, BUT, THEY DON'T GET IN YOUR HAIR EITHER!
I HOPE NOT! BEING NEW HERE, I'M A BIT SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT KIND OF PROSPECT!
YOU'LL TAKE IT ALL IN STRIDE, KLING! YOU'LL DO PLENTY OF READING AND THINKING AND YOU'LL BECOME A PHILOSOPHER LIKE ME! THE DEAD WANT NOTHING FROM YOU! AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY CAN BE TRUSTED!
LOOK AT THIS GIRL! BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE? IN LIFE SHE MIGHT HAVE CHEATED ON YOU.. NOW YOU CAN TRUST HER... SHE IS COMPLETELY.. GOOD!
WELL... OUR MOST RECENT GUEST. HE STOPPED TICKING AT 10:35! HIS OPERATION DIDN'T GO TOO WELL!
ONLY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OLD! HE MUST HAVE FELT CHEATED! I WONDER IF WE CAN TELL BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...
KLING.. IT'S ALIVE! IT'S ALIVE!
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S MOVING.. LOOK OUT! IT'S...

AT 2:10 A.M. ONE OF THE MORGUE ATTENDANTS HAS BEEN FOUND IN A POOL OF HIS OWN BLOOD! THE OTHER IS BEING TREATED FOR CUTS AND SHOCK.
THIS IS ONE FOR THE BOOK, PULASKI! THE LIEUTENANTS GOING TO FIGURE THIS ONE OUT ALL BY HIMSELF! IF HE DOES, I'LL PIN A CAPTAIN'S BADGE ON HIM MYSELF!
WHAT A MESS! I WONDER WHAT HE FOUND OUT FROM THE HEAD SAW-BONES OF THIS HOSPITAL? THEY'RE STILL IN CONFERENCE!
LOOKS LIKE THE POWWOW IS OVER! THERE'S THE LIEUTENANT NOW!
THAT CAN'T BE HIM! HE LOOKS PUZZLED! IF HE HASN'T GOT A LEAD, WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH NIGHT!
WHAT'S THE STORY, LIEUTENANT? DID THE SURGEON GIVE YOU A LINE ON THE KILLER?
YEAH! I'VE GOT A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF HIM! NAME, COLOR, HEIGHT, AGE, WEIGHT... THE WORKS RIGHT DOWN TO THE FINGERNAILS! ONLY I'M NOT PATSY ENOUGH TO SEND OUT AN ALARM ON HIM!
BECAUSE A GUY WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR THREE HOURS DOESN'T GET UP OFF A MORGUE SLAB TO COMMIT HOMICIDE! DEAD MEN DON'T DO THOSE THINGS!
FOR PET'S SAKE, WHY NOT?

YOU MEAN ONE OF THE CORPSES IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE..
THE ATTENDANT WHO SURVIVED MADE THE STATEMENT TO THE MEN WHO FOUND HIM BEFORE HE PASSED OUT!
HOGWASH! THIS JOINT PROBABLY DROVE HIM NUTS! HE RAN AMOK... KILLED HIS PARTNER ON DUTY... TORE UP THE PLACE AND HIMSELF AS WELL! THAT'S HOW I SEE IT!
COULD BE! BUT THERE'S A CORPSE MISSING! IT'S NUMBER 427! I'VE CHECKED! WHAT DID KLING DO WITH IT?.. MAIL IT TO HIS AUNT IN DENVER?
THAT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE THAN PINNING THIS ON A CORPSE, WOULDN'T IT?
I'M THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT SURGEON TOLD ME, SOMETHING THAT COULD MAKE SENSE AW... LET'S GET TO WORK!
IT IS 2 27 A.M.. THE HORROR BEGINS! MR & MRS. HOWARD GALT, LEAVING A LATE PARTY, ARE SET UPON AND BRUTALLY MURDERED BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT!
AT 2:35 A.M. THE CROSSTOWN BUS STOPS AT THE CORNER OF MICHAEL ST. AND FOURTH AVE! THE ONLY PEOPLE AT THE BUS STOP ARE AN OLD MAN AND A PRETTY GIRL OF TWENTY! THEY ARE SPRAWLED IN DEATH, THE VICTIMS OF WANTON KILLING..
2:50 A.M. PATROLMAN FRANK GENARO WALKING HIS BEAT ON COLEBRIDGE SQUARE IS ATTRACTED BY THE TERRIFIED SCREAMS OF A WOMAN... BEING CHASED BY A MAN WHO IS UNDAUNTED BY THE OFFICER'S APPROACH...
HELP ME, OFFICER! HE WANTS TO KILL ME! HE'S CRAZY!
ALL RIGHT, YOU! IF YOU DON'T STOP, I'LL SHOOT!

PATROLMAN GENARO FIRES ONE SHOT OVER THE MAN'S HEAD! THE FUGITIVE UTTERS A CRY OF FRIGHT AND BOLTS FOR THE SHADOWS! OFFICER GENARO GIVES CHASE BUT LOSES HIM IN THE DARKNESS!
3:13 A.M. FRED KIMMEL IS AWAKENED BY RASPING SOUNDS OUTSIDE SOMETHING LIES HUDDLED IN A SHADOWY CORNER OF THE FIRE ESCAPE!

WHEN HE RAISES THE SASH A LARGE AND BEAST-LIKE FORM HURTLES PAST KIMMEL INTO THE YARD BELOW...
3:30 A.M. THE DECISION! IT IS MADE BY THE GRIM UNSMILING MEN OF THE POLICE HOMICIDE DETAIL!
I SEE YOU'VE GOT MORE REPORTS. WHERE DID IT HAPPEN THIS TIME?
HONEST, LIEUTENANT! I COULD UNDERSTAND IT IF A TIGER DID IT! BUT THIS IS A MAN AND HE ATTACKS ON SIGHT!

LOOK AT 'EM! THREE MORE CASES IN AS MANY MINUTES! HOMICIDE/ASSAULT! AND THIS ONE... IT MAKES YOU SICK TO READ IT!
HE'S ROAMING THIS AREA, AND I'VE GOT IT BLOCKED OFF AS EFFECTIVELY AS I CAN! IF HE TRIES TO SLIP THROUGH, THE BOYS WILL GET HIM!
SUPPOSE HE FINDS A RAT HOLE AND STAYS PUT! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE IN ON HIM... SEARCH EVERY CRACK IN THE WALL IN THAT ENTIRE DISTRICT! IT MAY TAKE THE WHOLE FORCE TO DO IT!
NO! WE'VE GOT TO DRAW HIM OUT AND KILL HIM BEFORE DAWN! THERE WILL BE KIDS ON THOSE STREETS AT DAYLIGHT! C'MON, IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!

3: 38 A.M. THE HUNT! ALL TRAFFIC ON EASTERN BOULEVARD HAS BEEN REROUTED! ONLY THE POLICE CARS PROWL THE EERILY EMPTY STREETS!
A HUGE FIRE SUDDENLY BLAZES INTO BEING WHERE 65TH ST BISECTS EASTERN BOULEVARD! WAVES OF HEAT PENETRATE THE FROSTY AIR!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS WILL DO THE TRICK, LIEUTENANT? IT MAY ONLY SCARE HIM AWAY!
NOT IF I HAVE HIM PEGGED RIGHT! I DON'T THINK HE HAS THE BRAINS TO SMELL A TRAP! BUT HIS EYES CAN SEE THE FIRE AND HIS BODY CAN FEEL THE COLD! I'M COUNTING ON BOTH TO BRING HIM TO US!
READ THE PAPERS LATELY. ABOUT A GUY IN MAINE WHO DIED AFTER AN OPERATION
YEAH, CAME BACK TO LIFE TEN MINUTES LATER... COULDN'T REMEMBER HIS ADULT YEARS!
IN THE PROCESS OF DYING HIS BRAIN CELLS WERE DAMAGED! WHEN HE CAME BACK TO LIFE HE THOUGHT HE WAS A LITTLE BOY!
LIEUTENANT, YOU DON'T MEAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SURGEONS STORY ABOUT THIS KILLER BEING..
THE MISSING CORPSE? I DON'T KNOW! I... I'M DESPERATE! I WANT TO STOP THESE MURDERS! THAT'S WHY I'M GAMBLING THAT A DEAD MAN CAME BACK TO LIFE WITHOUT THE MEMORY OF EVER BEING HUMAN!
4: 08 A.M. THE QUARRY AND THE KILL!
SHADES OF THE DEVIL! THERE HE IS SKULKING AROUND THAT CORNER!
I SEE HIM! TELL THE BOYS TO HOLD THEIR FIRE! I WANT HIM WELL OUT IN THE OPEN!
SHOOT! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
BANG!
BANG!

4:08 A.M. THE HORROR ENDS AS THE FIRE ROARS AND THRUSTS AN ANGRY FLAME AT THE SKY!

VAMPIRES BRIDE

WHEN CHRIS LEFT, A STRANGE FEELING CAME OVER NADYA SUDDENLY..
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? SOME STRANGE POWER IS COMING OVER ME! THE VAMPIRE CURSE! COULD IT BE? NO! NO!
AS THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON HER TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, NADYA WAS DRAWN TO THE LIBRARY LIKE SOMEONE POSSESSED!
THE BATS! THEY ARE COMING ALIVE! NO! RELINQUISH YOUR HOLD ON ME, YOU THINGS OF EVIL!
THEN, A SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION...
SO, IT IS TRUE! I SHARE A COMMON HERITAGE WITH THESE FOUL OMENS OF DEATH! OH, CHRIS-- WHAT WILL BECOME OF OUR LOVE?
THAT NIGHT, NADYA THIRSTING FOR BLOOD, PROWLED THE COUNTRYSIDE...
I'LL CUT ACROSS MY FIELDS, DUSAN! TOMORROW I MUST BE UP EARLY TO HARVEST MY GRAIN!
AY! YOU ARE MUCH TOO ANXIOUS TO BE A RICH MAN! GOOD NIGHT!
BUT THE ILL FATED MAN WAS DESTINED NEVER TO HARVEST AGAIN!
AT LAST! MY BEING QUIVERS WITH THIRST! MY PETS, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WAY.
AAGH!

THE NEXT DAY, NEWS OF THE BRUTAL KILLING SPREAD THROUGH THE VILLAGE
I AM GIVING NOTICE, MISTRESS! I WANT TO RETURN TO MY OWN VILLAGE! NO ONE IS SAFE WITH A VAMPIRE LOOSE!
NONSENSE! THAT'S JUST A FOOLISH SUPERSTITION! A MAN HAS BEEN MURDERED! THAT'S ALL!
NADYA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OF COURSE, CHRIS! WHAT IS ALL THIS UPROAR ABOUT?
CHRIS, LET'S LEAVE FOR FRANCE AT ONCE!
THERE'S A DANUBE BOAT LEAVING AT ONCE! WE CAN BE MARRIED BY THE CAPTAIN, DARLING! PACK AND BE READY TONIGHT!
THE VILLAGE IS ARMING TO TRACK DOWN THE VAMPIRE! SOME ANCIENT CURSE HAS COME ALIVE AGAIN!
SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS LEGEND, CHRIS!
I MUST FLEE! SOME OLD CRONE IS SURE TO REMEMBER THE CURSE THAT IS ON MY FAMILY!
THAT NIGHT.
I'M MARRIED TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN HUNGARY, DARLING!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HUNGARY ANY MORE, CHRISTY! I'VE LEFT THE PAST BEHIND ME! MY FUTURE DESTINY LIES IN FRANCE NOW!
NADYA WAS DETERMINED TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND HER...
THERE, STAY WITH MY ANCESTORS! I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO MY HERITAGE! NOW I SHALL BUILD A NEW LIFE WITH CHRIS! NO MORE SHALL THESE BATS LURE ME INTO FOUL DEEDS!

BUT IF NADYA HAD LOOKED BACK, SHE WOULD HAVE SEEN HER DESTINY FOLLOWING IN THE WAKE OF THE SHIP...
BY THE WAY, DARLING! I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PACK THOSE HORRIBLE STATUES!
NO! I KNEW HOW YOU DISLIKED THEM, SO I LEFT THEM BEHIND!
CUSTOM OFFICE
LATER, AT CHRIS'S HOME IN PARIS...
I LOVE YOUR HOME, CHRIS! I'VE UNPACKED COMPLETELY AND REARRANGED THE LIVING ROOM!
I WANT IT JUST THE WAY YOU DO, DARLING!
BUT THERE WAS AN UNWELCOME ADDITION TO THE LIVING ROOM. THE VAMPIRE BATS HAD COME HOME...
I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT THOSE EVIL LOOKING STATUES BEHIND!
AIEEE! THEY HAVE PURSUED ME!
OH, THE MANSERVANT MUST HAVE PACKED THEM AGAINST MY INSTRUCTIONS!
BUT NADYA RECKONED WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE FOUL CREATURES WHO HELD HER SOUL CAPTIVE! THAT NIGHT...
AIEEE! THEY'VE COME FOR ME! I-I CANNOT RESIST THEM!
A MONTH PASSED HARPILY. NADYA BEGAN TO HOPE THAT THE BATS WERE IMMOBILIZED FOREVER. BUT THERE WAS A GROWING RESTLESSNESS IN HER AS THE MOON MOVED TO A PREDESTINED POSITION...
WHAT A WONDERFUL MOONLIT NIGHT, NADYA! WHY SO SILENT?
IT'S NOTHING, DARLING!
I FEEL THIS STRANGE CRAVING TO PROWL WITH MY KINSMEN! IF I LOVE CHRIS I MUSTN'T GIVE IN! I MUSTN'T!

THE BLOODLUST WAS ON NADYA! URGED EVER ON BY THE UNSPEAKABLE THINGS OF EVIL, SHE PROWLED THE STREETS OF PARIS FOR A VICTIM TO SATE THEIR DESIRE...
ENJOY THE FUN, MY PETS! HE ALMOST DIES OF FRIGHT!
AARGH!
MERCY! THAT HIDEOUS CREATURE!
A VAMPIRE!
A HUE AND CRY WAS RAISED THROUGHOUT PARIS WHEN, IN THE DAWN THE BLOODLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND!
BY THE WAY, LEFEVRE I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR WIFE!
BUT OF COURSE! COME HOME WITH ME TONIGHT FOR DINNER!
THAT NIGHT...
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COME FOR DINNER!
MY PLEASURE, MADAME! I WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS THE MOST HEINOUS CRIME I'VE EVER SEEN, LEFEVRE! IF I WERE SUPERSTITIOUS, I WOULD ALMOST BELIEVE THE GIRL...
I SAW SUCH A CRIME... IN HUNGARY THIS SUMMER WHEN I WAS COURTING!

WHERE YOU COME FROM THERE ARE MANY STORIES ABOUT VAMPIRES. TELL US ABOUT THEM!
JUST SILLY LEGENDS, MONSIEUR! ONLY THE PEASANTS BELIEVE THEM!
HE LOOKS AT ME SO STRANGELY! CAN HE POSSIBLY SUSPECT?
EH? THESE ARE CERTAINLY AN ODD PAIR!
HE DOES SUSPECT! HE MUST DIE! CHRIS MUST NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME! HE WOULD HATE ME-- I COULD NOT ENDURE THAT!
EVIL MUST BE FOLLOWED BY EVIL TO SURVIVE! THAT NIGHT, AS CHIEF OF POLICE BLANC SAT IN HIS LIBRARY...
THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF HUNGARY'S VAMPIRES! IT'S ONLY A HUNCH, BUT THAT GIRL-- THOSE BATS! I'M AFRAID EVIL LURKS IN LEFEVRE'S HOUSE!
YOU NEED CHECK NO FURTHER, MONSIEUR!!
YOU! VAMPIRE!
YOUR SUSPICION WAS JUSTIFIED! YOU HAVE SOLVED YOUR CASE, BUT YOU WON'T LIVE TO REVEAL MY SECRET!
WHEN SHE RETURNED THAT NIGHT, NADYA KEPT HER TALISMEN IN HER ROOM, LEST SOMEONE ELSE SUSPECT HER FEARFUL SECRET...
TONIGHT YOU SEEM MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, DARLING! BUT I FEEL AS IF THOSE CREATURES STARE AT ME WHENEVER I KISS YOU!
DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING, THEY'RE ONLY STATUES!
FOUL THING OF THE NIGHT! UGH!
WE WILL DRINK DEEP, KINSMEN! WE WILL BE RENEWED WITH THE BLOOD OF THIS ENEMY!

HORROR SPREAD THROUGH PARIS WITH THE NEWS OF THE CELEBRATED DETECTIVES MURDER. PEOPLE BARRED THEIR DOORS AT NIGHT, AFRAID TO GIVE ENTRANCE TO ANYONE. MEMBERS OF THE GUARD PATROLLED THE STREETS SEEKING THE VAMPIRE. NADYA GREW RESTLESS AS THE FULL MOON SHONE OVER THE CITY. THEN...
LALALA, TRES JOLIE!
NOW, WHILE HIS SENSES ARE DRUGGED, I'LL QUENCH MY BURNING THIRST!
YIEEEE! HELP!
THE BEAST! THERE IT IS!
DRIVEN OFF BY THE SHINING STEEL, NADYA FLED.
NADYA THOUGHT SHE WAS SAFE ONCE SHE GAINED THE SECURITY OF HER ROOM, BUT STILL THE BLOOD LUST BOILED WITHIN HER!
IT WENT THAT WAY!
SPREAD OUT AND SEARCH! KEEP YOUR BAYONETS DRAWN IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES! THE THING THIRSTS FOR BLOOD!
I GROW WEAK! AND MY PETS ARE DYING! I MUST BE RENEWED BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER!
THE VICIOUS BATS DREW NADYA TO THE CHAMBER WHERE UNSUSPECTING CHRIS WAS SLEEPING...
NO! MY CRAVING MUST BE SATISFIED ELSEWHERE! EVEN THROUGH MY LOATHSOME CORRUPTION YOUR LOVE TOUCHES ME! BUT I MUST HAVE BLOOD! THE MANSERVANT!

WHO IS IT?
YOUR MISTRESS! OPEN UP! I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU TO PERFORM AT ONCE!
WHOCK
A SUDDEN ELECTRIC STORM AWAKENED CHRIS. THINKING IT MIGHT FRIGHTEN NADYA, CHRIS WENT TO HER ROOM...
NADYA? THAT'S STRANGE! THE BATS ARE GONE TOO!
CHRIS HURRIED DOWN THE HALL IN TIME TO SEE...
THE VAMPIRE!
AARGH!
THE LOATHSOME BATS URGED NADYA ON TO KILL HER BELOVED...
OH, EVIL ONES, I CANNOT! RATHER WOULD I BE DESTROYED THAN HURT THE ONE I LOVE!
NADYA! YOU! I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
ANGERED BY NADYA'S REFUSAL, THE HUNGRY BATS ATTACKED!
I'M DONE FOR, UNLESS... THIS SWORD!
AS THE BATS FELL IN DEATH, THEIR SPELL OVER NADYA WAS BROKEN!
THINGS OF EVIL! NO MORE SHALL YOU DESTROY, BUT BE DESTROYED!
TOGETHER WITH MY EVIL OMENS, I DIE!
GOOD-BYE, MY DARLING! TRY TO FORGIVE ME FOR TRYING TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS! REMEMBER THAT I LOVED YOU...
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BRIEF MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WE SPENT TOGETHER!
The END

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